



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>

11
5

Peter Bedford.

C 8341.988.5

B

289.6
Class ~~Fb~~, No. B39
Accession No. 565 cop.2

FRIENDS' LIBRARY,

No. 142 NORTH SIXTEENTH STREET,
PHILADELPHIA.

Received, ... Mo., 19

HARVARD COLLEGE
LIBRARY

Joseph Tatum

from his

dear daughter

1 mo. 1868



Peter Bedford conversing with Two Thieves.

0

PETER BEDFORD,

THE

SPITALFIELDS PHILANTHROPIST.

BY

WILLIAM TALLACK,

||

Author of "Malta under the Phœnicians, Knights and English,"
&c., &c.

LONDON :

S. W. PARTRIDGE, 9, PATERNOSTER ROW.

1865.

C 8341.988.5

✓

FRIENDS' LIBRARY,
142 N. 10TH ST.,
PHILADELPHIA.

HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY
GIFT OF FRIENDS' LIBRARY
PHILADELPHIA
FEB 12 1935

B

289.6

LONDON :
RICHARD BARRETT, PRINTER,
MARK LANE.

35214
57

E

PETER BEDFORD,
THE
SPITALFIELDS PHILANTHROPIST.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

THE late Peter Bedford was a gentleman who, for a long course of years, was most highly respected for his philanthropic labours, and greatly beloved by a wide circle of friends, on account of his peculiarly sympathizing and genial disposition.

Throughout his long life he pursued an active, but unostentatious career of beneficent usefulness, especially in the neighbourhood of his residence, first at Spitalfields and subsequently at Croydon.

It was his pleasure and privilege to be for many years intimately associated with several of the leading philanthropists of his time, as for instance with Mrs. Fry

and her two noble brothers Joseph John and Samuel Gurney, with Messrs. William Allen, Basil Montague, William Crawford, and William Forster, also with Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton, Bart., Count Von der Recke, and the Right Hon. Dr. Lushington, the venerable Judge of the Ecclesiastical and Admiralty Courts.

Whilst gifted with a warmth of heart and an earnest devotedness to charity, equal to that of any of these more generally known excellent personages, Mr. Bedford was, on several accounts, precluded from appearing so prominently before the Christian public as it was their lot to do, inasmuch as his educational advantages had been, comparatively, very limited, and his social position, also, less favourable for so extensive an influence as theirs.

The Society of Friends (to which religious community he belonged) occupied, throughout his life, a considerable share in Mr. Bedford's interests and efforts. And, although not a public preacher in that body, he was very frequently engaged in various arrangements, journeys, and auxiliary undertakings, in aid of its ministers, especially of those whose labours partook of a missionary character in foreign lands.

The sufferings of the poor, the temptations of their ignorant and neglected children, the rescue and reformation of juvenile delinquents, and the amelioration of the treatment of criminals, were very prominent objects of Christian solicitude and effort with Mr. Bedford.

But his special and characteristic usefulness was effected by a remarkable endowment of the faculty of individual influence, especially in private conversation. Even many of his more public engagements were chiefly of service as affording extended opportunities for private labours of kindly sympathy. Great suavity and genial persuasiveness, together with a perpetual cheerfulness and a peculiarly gentle manner, rendered him a most agreeable companion. With these gifts of influence, as his instruments, and deep religious convictions, as their motive power, he was eminently successful in that sphere of Christian service, by means of conversational usefulness, described as "parlour preaching," by Dr. Watts, who, in one of his works, remarks:—"He that has the happy talent of parlour preaching, has sometimes done more for Christ and souls in the space of a few minutes, than by the labour of many hours and days in the usual course of preaching in the pulpit."

In his latter years, Mr. Bedford enjoyed entertaining his visitors with interesting reminiscences of his earlier and more vigorous time. The writer of the following pages has listened many an hour to the good man's narratives; and from the memory of those occasions a portion of the following pages has been drawn up. Other portions have been compiled from a variety of sources, and from the information of several intimate acquaintances of Mr. Bedford.

Another part of these sketches is copied from notes taken down in shorthand (with Mr. Bedford's permission), on the occasion of two evening visits, by T. B. Smithies. His visits were suggested by Mr. Samuel Gurney, M.P., who felt very desirous that, at least, a part of the instructive experiences of his venerable friend should be preserved for the interest and benefit of others.

Thus, the present little work does not assume the form of a regular biography, so much as of a collection of reminiscences, sketches, and brief researches into the chief scenes and associations of Mr. Bedford's benevolent and religious efforts.



CHAPTER I.

MR. BEDFORD'S EARLY DAYS—COMES TO LONDON—FORMS
FRIENDSHIPS THERE—HIS BUSINESS AND HOUSEHOLD—
SPITALFIELDS AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD FIFTY YEARS AGO
—LETTER OF A YOUNG THIEF.

MR. BEDFORD'S EARLY DAYS.

PETER BEDFORD was born in July, 1780, at Old Sampford, in the county of Essex. His parents were members of the Society of Friends, and carefully trained their son in the precepts and customs of their religious community.

His father carried on a drapery business, but appears to have been at the same time partially engaged in farming.

Young Peter was a gentle, bright-tempered child; but, withal, of a somewhat precocious thoughtfulness, mingled with occasional irritability. But the sunshine greatly preponderated in his character and demeanour, as was the case throughout his life. Yet to the last a little weakness of temper would, once in a while, break out, but only as if to show that grace was uppermost and nature in a right restraint.

When a very young child (of eight or ten years of age), he was one day rambling round his father's farm, and entering into the barn found one of the labourers working there. Either from some little fretfulness or from a childish wantonness, young Bedford, without any particular cause cursed the man. The latter, as may be well imagined,

looked much surprised at such an utterance from so young a child, and from a demure little Quaker above all, yet merely remarked, "I'll tell your father of this." But after uttering the words, and hearing the man's threat, little Peter was overcome with the most sorrowful feelings, not merely from a fear of paternal punishment, but from a clear sense of having offended his God. For several days this state of mind continued, and in that interval, whilst sitting alone by the fireside, he thought with horror of what he had been told of the future condition of the wicked in hell. So intense were his feelings and fears that, stooping down, he deliberately placed his finger on the hot coals in order to realize for himself a vivid conception of the anticipated awfulness of the award of sin. This was a remarkable act for so young a child, and indicated a mind cast in a mould pretty certain to be afterwards conspicuous either for very morbid manifestations or for very vigorous practical earnestness. Happily in his case the latter was the issue. For nearly a week after the occurrence just narrated his heartfelt sorrow continued. But at length, whilst sitting in the Quaker's meeting, and probably after either hearing or remembering the declarations of the fatherly love of God and of his Son, young Peter was able to regain his usual comfortable feelings with an additional sense of contrition and forgiveness. In narrating this incident to the writer a few years ago, Mr. Bedford remarked, "That was the first time I ever cursed a person, and it has also been the last."

This incident probably proved very instructive to himself in several ways. It would seem to have permanently impressed upon him the superior efficacy of a sense of God's fatherly love rather than the influence of a fear of

punishment. For it was a marked characteristic of Mr Bedford in after life, that in his intercourse with the sinful and erring he dwelt almost exclusively on the claims of God's fatherly kindness to mankind, and of the self-sacrificing condescension of his dear Son, in living, dying, and rising again to win to Himself and to everlasting goodness the souls of His people. Indeed, in recurring to a long train of reminiscences of Mr. Bedford's life and conversation, the writer does not recall a single instance of his making use of other powers of persuasion and exhortation than those afforded by the hopes and manifestations of Divine grace and the lessons of practical experience.

Whilst Peter was still a boy his parents removed to Plaistow, where he was sent to school. Here he had to undergo many trials from his comrades, to whom the conscientious young Quaker seemed like "a speckled bird." They could not understand his peculiarities or appreciate his scruples, and heartily teased him accordingly, much to his temporary trouble.

After some stay at school he appears to have been placed for a while with his half-brother, a grocer in Tooley Street, Southwark, but was eventually apprenticed with a worthy Quaker draper at Kelvedon, in his native county. Here he remained till the term of his apprenticeship had expired, and also for some years subsequently, being much valued by his employers and acquaintances for his activity, steadiness, and good temper.

It so happened that a Mr. Joseph Allen, silk manufacturer, of Steward Street, Spitalfields, was at this period frequently drawn to the neighbourhood of Kelvedon with a view to secure the hand of a fair Essex Quakeress (although not, as we presume, his first matrimonial

partner). But be that as it may, he here also became acquainted with young Mr. Bedford, and was greatly pleased with his many good qualities, and especially with his cheerfulness and amiability. Thinking that a rustic Essex village did not hold out much opportunity of success for so active and promising a young man, Mr. Allen invited him to come to the Metropolis, and to make his own house his home whilst looking out for some suitable opening in business.

COMES TO LONDON—FORMS FRIENDSHIPS THERE.

Peter Bedford accepted the kind invitation thus given, came to London, and soon entered into an arrangement for remaining with his friend Mr. Allen as a learner and assistant in the silk business, which occupation he continued to pursue through life until his withdrawal, in advanced years, from all active business engagements.

His connection with Mr. Allen was a decisive and important event in Mr. Bedford's life ; for it not only introduced him to a London business and residence, but also to a large circle of excellent and influential persons, both Quakers and others. The Allens came of a highly respectable stock, Joseph Allen's father and mother, Job and Margaret Allen, being regarded as two of the best of the worthies of their community in that day. Their son William (with whom Mr Bedford speedily formed an intimate and abiding friendship) was at this period a very promising young man. His talents had attracted the favourable notice of a well-to-do chemist, Mr. Joseph Gurney Bevan, of Plough Court, Lombard Street. He secured the services of young Allen in his business, where he even-

tually became a partner, and together with another young friend, the late Mr. John Thomas Barry, raised the firm (now Allen, Hanbury, & Co.) to one of the highest positions in the drug world—a position which it still worthily maintains.

Mr. William Allen's knowledge of practical chemistry proved most useful in connection with the business. He made several valuable scientific discoveries, became a lecturer at Guy's Hospital, and eventually a Fellow of the Royal Society, and an intimate associate of many of the leading scientific and political men of the day. His biography has been written in three substantial volumes by his talented niece, the late Miss Lucy Bradshaw, and in a briefer compass by the late Rev. James Sherman.

His partner Barry also attained a considerable reputation for scientific knowledge combined with great business tact. He entered, too, into the philanthropic schemes so warmly espoused by Allen.

Another intimate friend of Allen and Barry was the late Mr. Luke Howard, whose tastes were similarly scientific and philanthropic. He took chemistry and meteorology for his special pursuits, combining business with the one and recreation with both. He, too, eventually became publicly recognised as a *savant*, earned the triple initials F.R.S., and published various pamphlets and books on meteorology and kindred subjects. He and Allen never allowed either science or business to draw them away from the religious fervour and devotedness of their youth and early manhood. Both became and long continued preachers amongst the Quakers. In later life, however, Mr. Howard united himself to the community of the Plymouth Breth-

ren; but with no abatement of his religious zeal and earnestness.

With this trio of pious, talented young men, Mr. Bedford became and remained intimately associated; and, whilst he could never enter deeply into their scientific or literary pursuits, he was as fully interested as either of them in all the claims of philanthropy and of religious duty. In geniality and liveliness of temperament he was perhaps the superior of any one of even that cheerful and gifted trio.

Many philanthropic and energetic gentlemen, outside the then very narrow pale of general Quaker association, became known to Mr. Bedford, through the scientific and literary connections of his friends, Allen, Howard and Barry, especially of the former. And when once introduced to Bedford, his gentlemanly suavity and sunny cheerfulness retained them to him as willing friends and associates.

HIS BUSINESS AND HOUSEHOLD.

Meanwhile, amid his various friendships and intimacies, Mr. Bedford actively pursued his business duties. These he performed with such zeal and integrity as to win the entire confidence and deep esteem of his employer, Mr. Joseph Allen; and, in the course of a few years, that gentleman, having resolved to retire from active life, gave up the silk business (about 1808) to Mr. Bedford and another of his fellow-assistants in the establishment, Mr. Robert Christmas (the father of the Rev. Henry Christmas, author of several books and of a pamphlet in favour of the abolition of capital punishment.) Mr. Christmas did

not, however, continue long in the partnership, and on his withdrawal, Mr. Bedford became the sole proprietor of the concern, and continued so until 1836, when he left Spitalfields for Croydon.

The house occupied by Mr. Allen, and then by Mr. Bedford, was situated in Steward Street (the first door round the corner in going up Union Street from Bishopsgate Street). Subsequently he occupied a house a few doors northward, now inhabited by one of his relatives.

His habits were very systematic. He rose at six o'clock every morning, and, on getting out of bed, lit his fire which was laid over night. After dressing he took his seat at a writing table, and spent a little time in prayer and religious meditation; then read a portion of Scripture and wrote out the principal occurrences of the preceding day. After this he occupied the short interval till breakfast-time in examining his engagements for the day and his trade-books, and in seeing if the workpeople were properly employed and with sufficient work allotted them.

Business, philanthropy, social and religious engagements, all were entered upon and continued by him with system and steady perseverance. He was shrewd, yet generous, in his dealings with the Spitalfields weavers, whom he employed to work for him at their houses. Over such as were engaged on his own premises he exercised a kindly supervision as to their morals and their comforts. And whenever they needed sympathy and counsel, he was most willing to afford it, often following it up with tangible and substantial assistance.

He frequently visited the various streets and dwellings in his own neighbourhood, aiding the poor, encouraging

the meritorious, and inviting the wrongdoers to rectitude and honesty. The young were always the objects of his especial interest and solicitude. Feeling his inability to cope individually with the vast mass of ignorance and destitution around him, Mr. Bedford endeavoured to infuse new vigour into any existing local associations for beneficent purposes, and where these were insufficient he sought to solicit the co-operation of his friends in forming new organizations. The Spitalfields Soup Society was one of the former description; whilst amongst the latter may be named the Society for Lessening the Causes of Juvenile Delinquency in the Metropolis, the Spitalfields Association for the Relief of Distress, and various committees in promotion of local schools and refuges. Some of these associations were of so interesting and valuable a nature as to call for special notice here, together with a sketch of the condition of things which directly or indirectly called forth such beneficent co-operative efforts.

SPITALFIELDS AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD FIFTY YEARS AGO.

From carefully prepared statistics, compiled from a series of observations and enquiries made about the year 1810, it appears that at that date there were above ten thousand silk-loomers in Spitalfields and its neighbourhood. About the same period 2852 of these looms were unemployed, and the members of the families depending upon those unemployed looms amounted to 9700. About three thousand looms were only half employed, implying half subsistence for nearly ten thousand other persons. When so many weavers and their families were thus in distress

there would, as a consequence, also be similar destitution amongst the tradesmen dependent on or connected with the weaving trade, as, for instance, winders, dyers, warpers, and quillers. The distress consequent upon such a deficiency of employment was very great and extensive. Its cause at that particular period arose from the difficulty of procuring a certain description of silk from Italy. The fluctuations of depression and prosperity produced by the varying aspects of home and continental politics at that period were necessarily frequent, and very seriously affected the condition of a locality mainly dependent on one branch of industry, which was itself dependent on foreign supplies of raw material, and on the freedom of commerce and navigation, essential to obtain those supplies.

Hence, the Spitalfields weavers were at intervals in a state of comparative comfort and prosperity, but always liable to be overtaken by severe trial and poverty through enforced idleness. The more industrious and steady amongst them were famed for their love of flowers, which they cultivated abundantly in window boxes at home, and on a more extensive scale in numerous small plots of land (on the allotment system) at Hoxton and the City Road, then a suburban district of gardens and brick-fields, but now brought miles within the embrace of street and terrace, square and crescent.

In 1815 Mr. William Crawford, an intimate friend of Mr. Bedford, and for many years his coadjutor in philanthropic labours in East London, stated before a select committee appointed by Parliament to enquire into the education of the poor of the metropolis, that out of one district in Spitalfields, a fair average specimen of the locality, and

not the poorest part of it, he had found 2091 families containing 2565 children, from six to fourteen years of age, without any education whatever. In fact he might say that seven-eighths of the children of the very poorest were destitute of instruction.

The rector of the adjoining district of Bethnal Green stated before the same committee that "there are dreadful scenes of riot and disturbance in the parish occasionally, arising from *bullock-hunting* principally, and the natural consequence which proceeds from disorderly public-houses."

The then neighbouring "village" of Kingsland and the district of Haggerstone, abounded in bull-fights, men-fights, cock-fights, intoxication, and thieving, until schools began to be established amongst their population, when a decided improvement commenced.

It must be remembered that, previous to and during the period of the Regency and of George the Fourth's reign, not only was there a great deficiency of popular education, but the crimes inseparable from ignorance and poverty were punished with the most indiscriminating severity, and a Draconian code of worse than heathen barbarity existed. In those days upwards of a hundred crimes, some of them very trivial, were punishable capitally; as, for example, stealing one shilling from the person, five shillings from a shop, letting water out of a fishpond, or being in the company of gipsies for a twelvemonth. So frequently was the fatal sentence executed, that, throughout the "good old days" of George the Third and of the Regency, London fully deserved the name given by a popular writer, "the City of the Gibbet," and there was at least a foundation for the satire of Dr. Johnson's lines—

"Scarce can our fields, such crowds at Tyburn die,
With hemp the gallows *and* the fleet supply."

Rewards were offered to "thief-takers," who systematically prompted and suggested the robberies, for the betrayal of which they were to receive the "blood money." The dimly-lighted tunnel-like streets at night courted the operations of the footpad and the burglar. Neither gas-lights nor any well-organized police lent their preventive aid. Instead of the latter, there were by night the imbecile old watchmen or "Charlies," who at intervals waddled round their beats, in the least dangerous thoroughfares, and, loudly calling out the hour, at once disturbed the sleeper and gave notice to the thief to suspend or conceal, for a few minutes, his work of plunder. But most of the night these wretchedly incompetent defenders of the public safety were soundly sleeping in their heavy sentry boxes, which occasionally some passing robbers or drunken sparks would turn round, with its opening closed against a wall, and fixing it in this position by stones leave the incommoded occupant to get out as best he could. And well if only so; for at times box and "Charlie" were both turned upside-down, or else together thrown into some deep and unsavoury ditch.

The administration of justice was often a libel on the very name. The author of "Old Bailey Experience" states (page 59) that at that court, "For several sessions I made a calculation of the average time which each trial occupied. I never found it (the average) exceed *eight and a half minutes*, notwithstanding many cases engage the Court occasionally a whole day." Fifty or sixty prisoners were kept ready in the dock under the Court, and their

cases "knocked off" with bewildering and most indecent rapidity. They became alarmed and nervous, lost all coherence of remonstrance and of defence, and found themselves condemned before they knew what had occurred. The same writer says, "Fully two-thirds of the prisoners on their return from their trials cannot tell of anything which has passed in the Court." Often men on being returned after trial and sentence to prison would exclaim, "It can't be me they mean; I've not been tried yet." One metropolitan "Judge" was famed for despatching sixty or seventy trials a day! Such "trials," and with such a code! At the Old Bailey Sessions on Wednesday, February 16, 1814, five children of from eight to fourteen years of age were condemned to death—viz., Fowler, age 12, and Wolfe, age 12, for burglary in a dwelling; Morris, age 8, Solomons, age 9, and Burrell, age 11, for burglary and stealing a pair of shoes!

Good Messrs. Bedford, Allen, Barry, Lushington, Montague, Crawford, Fowell Buxton, and others, became so horrified at this state of things that they commenced an agitation for effecting the ameliorations so urgently needed in the criminal code. Aided by several eloquent parliamentary advocates, as Romilly, Brougham, Mackintosh, and Wilberforce, the good work eventually went forward apace; but many years of patient perseverance were necessary to acquire for it a decided impetus towards success. Of the ultimate results we may say more in subsequent pages. But, in the early days of these philanthropic efforts (which eventually benefited the whole nation), the chief portion of the burden was borne by the little knot of earnest, warm-hearted men, whose residence in or near

Spitalfields was such a blessing to that locality in particular and to the metropolis in general, and of whom Lushington, Bedford and Buxton, Crawford and Allen, were the heart and soul.

We believe it was one of this group who ingeniously, but with perfect truth, depicted the neglected and inevitably demoralizing condition of the juvenile criminals of London, at that time, in the form of an imaginary letter from a young thief, which we here transcribe.

LETTER OF A YOUNG THIEF.

"Sir,—I am on the point of leaving England for Botany Bay, being convicted of picking pockets. I am a very young lad, and some people seem sorry for me; for my own part I can never go anywhere to be worse used; any country will be as good for me as this which is called mine.

"I was born in Dyot Street. I never remember my mother; but my father's companions sometimes spoke of her as one who had been transported for passing bad money; my father used to look gloomy and sorrowful when she was mentioned, and never recovered without a glass of liquor; some people said she died broken-hearted in gaol, but I never heard the truth of it.

"In our street, he who thieved most cleverly was the most admired, and the only disgrace that could be incurred was the shame of detection. I sometimes, at the end of the street, saw people ride past in fine coaches, and these, I supposed, had robbed still more successfully.

"I knew nothing and was taught nothing but to steal;

and I practised my art with an industry which I thought most laudable.

“ I have heard of God, and hell, and the devil ; and they once told me the bell tolled at St Giles’s that people went there to pray that they might go to heaven ; but I saw nobody who seemed to believe this, and I thought these words, like many others, were only useful to swear by. The only thing I was taught to fear was a thief-catcher, and, though I eluded his vigilance for some time, he caught me at last. In prison the parson told me how I ought to have been brought up.

“ He found that I had never been idle ; that I had laboured in my calling ; that I had never robbed my father or cheated my landlady, and that to the best of my power I had done what I was told to do ; and yet I was put into gaol ! And, if I had not been a very little boy, the parson said I should have been hanged !

“ There are some ten thousand boys in London who are all living as I lived ; and when I was tried, a gentleman in a great wig talked very kindly to me, and if I knew what his name was I would send this letter to him ; he said he would have a school in Dyot Street, where boys might be told what was right ; and I think, Sir, before they are caught and hanged, it would just be honest to tell them that they are in danger of it, and to tell them what is law and what is society, and not to let them hear of it for the first time when they are tried.

“ I am going, they say, among the savages, and I never desire to come back. The savages would have taken care of my education, have taught me to hunt, shoot, and fish, and would have told me how to be a great and good

man ; but the Christians have not done so, and if it was not that I am sorry for my companions that are left behind me, and hope the gentleman in the large wig may see this letter, I would not give myself the trouble of asking my fellow-prisoner to write it.

“ JACK WILD.”

In connection with the above letter, the author of “ Old Bailey Experience ” mentions that a gentleman who had travelled in Australia told him the following anecdote. He was present one day at a convict depôt when a colonist came to select a servant from amongst the number disposable. Seeing a likely-looking youth, he said to him, “ Well, my lad, what are you ? ” “ A London thief,” was the boy’s reply, touching his hat. “ What can you do ? ” “ Thief, sir.” “ No doubt of that ; but how were you brought up ? ” he continued. “ To thief, sir,” was the boy’s answer again. “ Nonsense ! What was your father ? ” “ A thief, sir.” On further continuing his enquiries, the colonist found that the youth had five brothers and five sisters, every one of whom he said was, like himself, a thief, and trained as such from earliest childhood.

It needed no prolonged residence in Spitalfields to give Mr Bedford a lively sense of compassion for the pitiable condition of the thousands of youths whose antecedents were such as have just been described. He and his excellent associates could not but feel that it was solely by Divine grace that they were themselves trained amid happier influences, and having their lives fallen amongst pleasant places morally, religiously, and intellectually.

Thus conscious that men are the creatures of circumstances, or rather of absolute providential allotment, as to original position and predisposition, they increasingly felt their individual responsibility and the application to them of the Divine appeals, "Who maketh thee to differ from another?" and "To whom much is given, from him shall be much required?"

And as, oftentimes, the father of a large family devotes a special share of attention and expense to the education of one member of that family, in order that, in coming years, this privileged one may continue a parental care and protection to the others, and the latter be beneficially and more happily united together through him, so, in like manner, the great and beneficent Father of humanity having gifted these good men with peculiar faculties and opportunities of usefulness, they felt that it would be to them both duty here and joy hereafter, to extend to their less favoured brethren around them the fruits of their superior allotment.

On such a principle they acted, and continued to act till, one after another, they exchanged the probationary and formative stewardship of earth for the higher sonship of heaven in the revealed presence of their Father and Saviour.

CHAPTER II.

THE SPITALFIELDS SOUP SOCIETY—THE SPITALFIELDS LANCASTERIAN SCHOOL—SPITALFIELDS ASSOCIATION FOR THE RELIEF OF SPECIAL CASES OF DISTRESS AMONGST THE INDUSTRIOUS POOR—ORIGIN OF MR. BEDFORD'S SPECIAL INTEREST IN JUVENILE CRIMINALS (KNIGHT'S CASE)—BILL HORNE AND THE STOLEN LUGGAGE.

THE SPITALFIELDS SOUP SOCIETY.

ONE of the first engagements in works of beneficence undertaken by Mr. Bedford, after coming to reside in London, was to give his active and hearty aid to the visiting and relieving operations of a society which had been instituted about ten years previously, "The Spitalfields Soup Society," one of the first of its kind. Its origin is described in a contemporary philanthropic journal as having dated from 1797, when an individual, deeply affected with the sufferings of the poor in Spitalfields, many of whom were in a state of absolute starvation, resolved to procure, if possible, the co-operation of some of his friends in a plan for affording relief to a few of the worst cases, and to ascertain what were really such, by means of house-to-house visitation. He first communicated his idea to a friend. On more mature consideration, however, the field appeared so immense, and any sum they could hope to raise by private subscription so inadequate

to anything like general relief, that it seemed quite necessary to extend greatly the original idea. In reflecting that cheap and nutritious food was the object, the efforts of Count Rumford,* at Munich, naturally occurred to them; but it was also remembered that the poor of Bavaria and the poor of England were a very different description of people.

Something of the kind had been attempted at Birmingham; but it was yet to be demonstrated whether there might be, or not, insurmountable prejudices in the way of the plan. For it must be borne in mind that systems of benevolence which, in 1865, are of long-tried and perfectly familiar working, were, in 1800, hidden in the comparatively remote and unknown future. The beaten tracks of our modern philanthropy were then a *terra incognita* even to the advanced and intelligent minds of the age. Furthermore, sectarian bigotry and ignorant jealousy, now so largely dispelled and abated, then ruled with a rigid and dominant prevalence in all classes of society.

It was, therefore, after much discussion and deliberation, that the two friends called a meeting of a few of their acquaintances, at a private house, when, having talked the matter over, it was resolved to meet again on an early day, and that every one present should bring as many of his friends as possible. At the next meeting there were still only about twenty present, but that body resolved to form themselves into a society for the purpose of sup-

* An interesting little sketch of this philanthropic gentleman and his labours is contained in "Chambers's Miscellany of Interesting and Instructive Tracts."

plying the poor with meat soup at a penny per quart. A subscription was immediately commenced, the society rapidly increased, and an active committee was soon organized. Eligible premises were met with in Brick Lane, Spitalfields, and forthwith were adapted to the purpose in view.

From the commencement the experiment succeeded better than was expected. The applicants paid the penny per quart with cheerfulness, and carried home a supply of food which they could not have prepared of equal quality themselves for many times that sum. The committee purchased, at first hand, at wholesale prices, meat, barley, and vegetables of prime quality ; and as everything was done, both by the sub-committees and their individual members, from the purest and most disinterested motives, and as there were no salaries for clerks, no commissions for agents, the only expenses incurred were the cost of the ingredients of the soup, the rent of the premises, the hire of the cooks, and a moderate allowance to a superintendent. The latter was an active, sympathizing, married woman, well qualified for her post, which she occupied satisfactorily to all parties for many years from the establishment of the institution. The committee, although chiefly Quakers, was by no means confined to that denomination, but embraced both Churchmen and Dissenters, all of whom harmoniously laboured together in their laudable object. Such harmonious co-operation was then a new thing in London. Amongst the names of the Committee in 1810 (about the time that Mr. Bedford became an active member of it) were Messrs. William Allen, Robert Christmas, Daniel Bell Hanbury,

Gurney Barclay, John Arch, John Messer, Richard Barrett, Joseph Allen, Thomas Fowell Buxton, William Phillips, Joseph Foster, Sparks Moline, Cornelius Hanbury, Thomas Pace, Joseph T. Foster, and Samuel Marsh. It is interesting to find that, although these have passed away, yet they have been succeeded (nearly all of them) by sons or near relatives, mostly bearing the same honoured names, and similarly engaged in works of benevolence, and even in the same locality. For instance, if a ragged-school, a church, a chapel, a poor man's library, or other similar good object is to be maintained or established in East London, it is ten to one but there will still appear prominently on the subscription lists the names of a Buxton or a Barclay, a Gurney or a Fry, a Hanbury or an Allen.

As an example in point,—on the 14th of February, 1865, there was opened (at the corner of Quaker Street and Wheeler Street, Spitalfields) a very neat and spacious edifice, built by the Society of Friends for the joint purposes of a Sunday-school, a working men's institute, and a chapel for occasional services by preachers of their own and other denominations. At the opening meeting the chair was occupied by a second Gurney Barclay (the head of the Lombard Street firm), and he was supported by his cousin, Mr. Samuel Gurney, M.P. These two gentlemen alone had, between them, personally contributed upwards of a thousand pounds towards the erection of the new building. Amongst the large company present there were representatives of most of the very names of the projectors of the old beneficent societies, established in Spitalfields

fifty years ago. And to connect the past and the present still more closely, it was decided to call the new premises "The Bedford Institute," in honour of the genial and warm-hearted old gentleman, the subject of the present sketch, with whom, for two generations, almost all that was good in Spitalfields' efforts had been more or less associated.

But to return to the Soup Society. So extensive did its operations soon become, that an average quantity of 3,100 quarts were daily distributed to about 1,000 persons applying on behalf of their respective families. All this was accomplished, including the taking of money and the marking of tickets, in less than two hours and a quarter; each person being only detained about half-an-hour. In order to shelter the poor applicants whilst in waiting, from the inconveniences and dangers of being exposed to the weather, a covering was erected capable of sheltering three hundred persons. The daily consumption of food, in the form of soup, was 856 lbs. of good beef, 426 lbs. of barley with the husk taken off, 317 lbs. of split peas, 40 lbs. of onions, 4 lbs. of pepper, and 62 lbs. of salt.

It was calculated, that when all who partook of the soup in the families was taken into account, a meal was thus furnished for seven thousand persons every day. Each quart of soup contained as much beef alone as cost the Society twopence. Had this been distributed uncooked and separately to applicants, there would have been much extra expense of time and trouble in roasting, boiling, or frying, besides much waste. In the form of soup all this was spared, and the whole of the nourishment preserved,

including the gelatine, one of the most nutritious parts of animal food, often lost in other modes of cookery.*

The difference between the cost of the soup and the money paid by the poor occasioned an expenditure to the Institution of more than £150 per week. This was supported by subscriptions and contributions from various benevolent individuals and corporations, including bankers, insurance offices, the East India Company, and the West India Dock and Mercers' Companies.

THE SPITALFIELDS' LANCASTERIAN SCHOOL.

This was another benevolent institution of which Mr. Bedford soon became an active member and committee-man, after taking up his residence in Spitalfields. It had its origin in the Soup Society ; for, during the house-to-house visitations made by the members of the latter in their inquiries respecting suitable objects for their daily relief, they became acquainted with facts disclosing the prevalence of a fearful amount of ignorance.

The result was the calling of a committee at the soup house in Brick Lane, and at this meeting the subject was no sooner explained than a unanimous resolution was passed that the company present should form themselves into a society for the purpose of erecting schools for 1000 boys and 500 girls. Frequent meetings were held, new members added, and attempts made to procure rooms large

* Dr. Lankester, in a recent lecture on food, specially recommends, both on sanitary and economical grounds, the general use of soups, as affording to the digestive system portions of the meat thoroughly dissolved, which are apt, in other forms of preparation, to escape absorption or assimilation.

enough for the purpose. As the latter attempt was not successful, it was at length resolved to build on a plot of ground at the bottom of Spicer Street, Brick Lane. Here a commodious room was erected 104 feet long and 42 broad. This was opened on the 3d of February 1812 by Mr. Thomas Harrod, a well-qualified master, who was one of the well-known Joseph Lancaster's early assistants. The committee included many of the managers of the Soup Society; but amongst the additional names we find recorded those of Dr. Birkbeck, Messrs. Joseph Fox, Thomas Richardson (of Lombard Street), Joseph Compton, Rev. Josiah Pratt, Joseph Jackson Lister, John Kitching, Robert Pryor, Charles Hanbury, and David Barclay. Amongst those who actively laboured in both societies were Messrs. Peter Bedford, Thomas Fowell Buxton (afterwards M.P. and Baronet), Joseph Allen, of Steward Street (Mr Bedford's employer), and William Allen, of Plough Court.

The terms of admission were characterized alike by caution, liberality, and consideration, and specified that "every child free from contagious disorder, of whatever religious denomination his parents may be, the said child being not less than six nor more than fourteen years of age, may be admitted into the school upon payment of one penny per week. One quarter to be paid in advance. Hence persons who have little to spare, but who do not like to receive charity, may have the satisfaction of reflecting that they have paid for the education of their children." Such were the carefully drawn-up terms of the Society. The objects of the Society were further enunciated, as being—"To provide those who have but little to spare, with an opportunity of having their children instructed in spelling,

reading, writing, and arithmetic ; in the principles of piety and virtue ; in the necessity of honesty, veracity, and sobriety ; and of having them at the same time inured to habits of subordination, industry, and cleanliness." All political and sectarian views were studiously disclaimed and guarded against.

Doubtless great good was effected by the educational labours of the Society, though perhaps not as much as some of the more sanguine of its supporters had anticipated.

When Mr. T. B. Smithies spent two evenings with Mr. Bedford (in October 1860) for the purpose of taking down in shorthand some of his reminiscences, the latter thus alluded to the Spitalfields School Society and its results :—

"Soon after I came to London, a school was opened in Spitalfields calculated to educate a thousand boys. At that time, I thought that if I lived twenty years I should see the blessed effects of education amongst that wide population. But I have been very much disappointed, and I expect many thousands are disappointed in their expectations of seeing for themselves great results.

"Still I believe great good has nevertheless ensued from the establishment of the Spicer Street (now Abbey Lane) Schools.

"In 1840 I was on my way to the south of France ; and whilst at Paris, and wanting some foreign change, the currency of the country, I went into Lafitte's Bank, one of the first banking houses in that city, presented my circular-note, and was very politely attended to by a gentlemanly young cashier. Having received my change I went away ; but the next day I had occasion to return to the bank with some of my travelling companions, who also wanted

change. Whilst they were having their notes cashed the young gentleman that had attended to me on the previous day came from behind the counter, and, very politely apologizing for taking a liberty, requested that I would favour him by stepping into an adjoining room. I could not imagine what this meant. I had heard a good deal of the espionage of France, but I knew that I had not defrauded them of any of their money, and I was, therefore, not much alarmed. Looking at me, he said, 'Are you Mr. Peter Bedford of Spitalfields?' I said, 'I do not live in Spitalfields, but I have lived there.' 'Well, then, sir,' was his reply, 'I am greatly indebted to you.' I told him that this could not be the case, for I had never seen him before. 'Yes, you have,' he continued, 'and I am greatly indebted to you. You once invited me, with some of the monitors of Spicer Street Schools, to have tea and plum-cake at your house in Spitalfields.'

"I then remembered such a party assembling at my residence. He proceeded to say, 'Well, sir, I was too unwell that afternoon to go. I was monitor in the fourth class, but I recollect your noticing me in the school, and I am greatly indebted to you.' After a while the facts of the case returned to my memory, and I remembered that on one occasion, when visiting the poor in Bethnal Green, I met somewhere with this youth, a nice-looking lad. I enquired if he went to school, and gave him one of my free tickets for admission to this school in Spitalfields.

"As I was going to leave Paris on the afternoon of my second visit to Lafitte's Bank, I could not enter much into the case; but after my return to England I wrote to the young man, and sent him a little token of my remem-

brance as one of the most active and intelligent monitors in our school. I stated in my letter that if he had no objection I should be glad to hear how it was that he got on so successfully as to fill his present situation in Lafitte's bank. In reply he wrote me a whole history of it, and informed me that he was the son of a jobbing bricklayer, and used to accompany his father in setting stoves for the poor weavers of Spitalfields. This was his occupation when I met him and induced him to attend the schools. After leaving the schools he obtained a situation as junior clerk in a silk-dyer's counting-house. Then he went to another and much larger establishment, where he conducted himself so well that his employer's son entered into partnership with him as a firm of drysalterns. They were not successful, and lost their little capital, but were able to pay twenty shillings in the pound. After this the young man obtained another situation, where also he got on very well; but, hearing that an English clerk was wanted in Lafitte's bank in Paris, he made application for the office, and was accepted. When I met him there he had been several years in the establishment, and had risen to an important and confidential position in it."

SPITALFIELDS ASSOCIATION FOR THE RELIEF OF SPECIAL
CASES OF DISTRESS AMONGST THE INDUSTRIOUS POOR.

This was the name of a third benevolent association in which Mr. Bedford was prominently engaged as a committee-man and energetic agent. The association divided the whole of Spitalfields into seventeen districts for visiting purposes. Each of these districts was placed under the special care of a sub-committee of two or more members,

appointed by the general committee of forty gentlemen and about as many ladies. Here again we find, as Mr. Bedford's coadjutors, the same indefatigable phalanx of Allens, Barclays, Buxtons, Comptons, Sandersons, and Fosters, together with Messrs. Leonard Horner, Luke Howard, Samuel Gurney (father of the present Mr. S. Gurney), Richard Barrett, and others.

The main principles of the Association were to relieve in no case without personal inquiry and observation ; never to render assistance in the form of the payment of bakers' bills, arrears of rent or other debts ; and, as a rule, to aid the destitute with food and clothing rather than with money to purchase them. (These are identical with the principles adopted by the excellent Society for the Relief of Distress, King Street, St. James' Square ; an association whose operations now—1865—embrace the whole of the vast Metropolitan district.) It was a further rule never to grant at one time to any family more than the value of 5s. 6d., except in the matter of clothing.

The committee fitted up a shop near the centre of Spitalfields, for the sale of salt-fish, rice, and other provisions, at reduced prices, to those bringing tickets from the visiting sub-committees. The ladies' committees were found very useful, especially in relieving and visiting women in their confinements. The East India Company generously contributed its aid, by admitting nearly two hundred persons as temporary labourers in their warehouses, on the recommendation of the committee of this Relief Association ; an opening gratefully appreciated by many poor men thus benefited.

In connection with the association and its operations, a

Refuge for the Destitute was established at Hoxton, and for many years Mr. Bedford was frequent in his visits thither. He thus spoke of it to Mr. Smithies :—

“ The Refuge for the Destitute at Hoxton was an old sugar-house, which we purchased and fitted up. We had at times as many as a hundred inmates. There was a temporary ward and a permanent ward. The temporary ward could at any time take in a poor wretched creature, and if he bid fair to be reformed by us, he was taken into the permanent ward on payment of 7s. per week.

“ I was one of the visitors there for several years. It was the duty of the visitors to be in attendance at least once a week. Another gentleman—Mr. R. Hutchings, a stockbroker, also a regular visitor—had the tailors, at one time thirty-six in number, placed under his care. At one period, he had in his division a boy named Smith, in whom he was greatly interested. Sometimes this lad was very dutiful to him, and good hopes were entertained as to his future behaviour and success ; but unfortunately the poor boy had a very bad temper, which frequently brought him into difficulties. On such occasions, Mr. Hutchings would come to me and say, ‘ Mr. Bedford, I can’t manage Smith at all ; I wish you would talk to him.’ I used to do so, and got to feel much interest in him.

“ One day, the superintendent of the institution spoke to me about him, and said, ‘ I observe Smith getting very much alone and reading his Bible. I am very hopeful of him. He conducts himself very satisfactorily.’ A change, too, was coming over the poor fellow in more ways than one. His health was evidently failing, and pulmonary consumption came on. For a while he was sent out of

the institution to be nursed, but on returning to it the disease increased. At length, one day, whilst I was surrounded by friends at my dinner table, I received a note from Mr. Hutchings, as follows:—

“ ‘My dear Sir,—If you want to see Smith, you must come quickly.’

“ I left my company and went. There I found him in the infirmary, confined to his bed, and greatly emaciated. I took my seat by him, and had some serious conversation with him. I inquired into the state of his mind, and said I hoped his mind was brought into that state that he knew whom to look to, and was seeking for mercy and forgiveness where they may be found. And I told the dear lad that I hoped he was in that condition that he was not afraid to die. He looked at me, and his answer was, ‘No, sir; when I pass through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil: for Thou, Lord, art with me; Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.’ His cough came on, and he could not finish the passage. It was very touching.

“ At length the time came for taking leave of him. He looked at me again, and said, ‘Good-bye, sir; good-bye:’ threw his arms around me, and added, ‘We shall meet again. We shall meet in heaven.’ Two days afterwards he died. His case shows what may be done with poor lost characters, if proper care be exercised.

“ On another occasion I ascertained from the superintendent of the Refuge that there were about a dozen boys who had been in the institution for some time, and who seemed to be reformed characters. They requested that they might have an hour one evening in the week for mutual instruction, and serious reading and prayer to-

gether. An arrangement was accordingly made to meet their wishes. Amongst this number there was a youth named Wand, about eighteen years of age. He had been a bad lad. One day I went to meet these lads, and took with me a little tract which I had had printed, entitled, 'The Backslider.' It was the narrative of a most striking case. My nephew, who accompanied me, read it to them; and on hearing it, I think there were no less than nine of those boys in tears. Many years after, I was staying for a short time at Horsham, with my friends William Allen and Elizabeth Fry. In walking along the street, I saw the name of John Wand, boot and shoe maker. This was one of those twelve lads in the Refuge, now become a master tradesman, and having a dozen hands employed under him. He was married, and apparently in good circumstances. I went into his shop, and had a most interesting interview with him."

If the efforts of Mr. Bedford and his associates had merely been followed by the two or three successful results here mentioned, their exertions would not have been in vain. But there is reason to believe that many such instances as these could have been brought forward. Considering the endless duration and incalculable influence of a human soul, how important and blessed are such labours and such results! These good men might truly derive encouragement and animation from the apostolic declaration, "Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him, let him know that he who converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins." (James v. 19, 20.)

And, in connection with the subject of the Refuge for

the Destitute, we may here mention that similar institutions are amongst the most useful of our modern philanthropic agencies in the Metropolis. The largest of the kind is now (1865) in Playhouse Yard, Whitecross Street. Here four or five hundred houseless wanderers, or more, are nightly received during the winter months, without introduction or delay, and furnished with a night's rest (repeatedly if applied for) in a room warmed by large fires all night, and also supplied with a leather wrapper, some bread, and conveniences for washing. Other night asylums of a similar kind are the Newport Market and Field Lane Refuges. The latter is situated close to the Farringdon Street Station of the Metropolitan (Underground) Railroad. These establishments are freely open to the inspection of visitors, who will find an interesting and instructive lesson of thankfulness and compassion afforded by an observant tarriance of a quarter of an hour or so in either of them, any winter evening about seven o'clock. Amongst the names in the visitors' books at these institutes during the past year (1864), may be observed the names of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir George Grey, Sir Richard Mayne, and other influential public men, who, amid their important and numerous engagements, can yet spare time for interesting themselves in the welfare of the poorest and most destitute of the community.

There can be little doubt but that the sufferings of the metropolitan poor would be greatly alleviated by the introduction of a system of uniform rating for their relief in all the parishes. At present some of the wealthiest parishes, composed of splendid terraces, crescents, and

mansions, are very slightly rated, if at all; whilst other parishes largely peopled by the very poorest class, and whose better houses are chiefly occupied by struggling tradesmen, are very heavily rated: consequently it becomes almost a necessity to dispense public charities in such localities with a very rigorous parsimony. In the hands of some officers this leads to cruelty and gross neglect. The frequent verdicts of coroners' inquests, and newspaper paragraphs descriptive of "death by starvation" in the metropolis, abundantly confirm such a conclusion. But equal parochial rating would at any rate remove or greatly modify one of the chief causes of such evils.

ORIGIN OF MR. BEDFORD'S SPECIAL INTEREST IN JUVENILE CRIMINALS.—(KNIGHT'S CASE.)

We have repeatedly listened to Mr. Bedford's narrative of a remarkable circumstance which first drew his particular attention to juvenile criminals. He often related it to his visitors, and we here copy the account as given to Mr. Smithies.

"In the year 1815, in the neighbourhood of Spitalfields, a young man named John Knight was, on a certain occasion, arrested for stealing a watch.

"A gentleman living at Hoxton, was walking through Whitechapel, and leading a little boy with him. He had to pass through a large concourse of people who were attending the funeral of a member of an Odd Fellows' Society. Whilst in the crowd an attempt was made by some one to rob him of his watch. An individual was apprehended for it and committed to Newgate for trial. Mr. William Crawford (an Inspector of Prisons) and

myself happened to be visiting Newgate together just after that prisoner (named John Knight) had been tried for the above offence and condemned to death.

“The ordinary accosted us, and said, ‘Now, Mr. Bedford, here’s a case that ought to claim your attention.’ ‘Well, what is it?’ said I. He then described Knight’s case in detail, and further informed us that after his arrest on the spot, a rescue had been attempted by his companions; stones and brickbats thrown, constables wounded, and bloody handkerchiefs had been exhibited at the trial as unmistakable evidence of great violence on the occasion. He added, ‘This is a case you ought to attend to, though I fear all the influence that you and your friends can bring to bear upon it will not avail.’ I replied that we would see about it and make inquiry.

“Accordingly investigations into the matter were set on foot. Whilst they were proceeding, Crawford went down to Brighton, and during his stay there wrote to inform me that the day for Knight’s execution was fixed.

“On the following Saturday I received another letter from Crawford: ‘My dear Bedford, you cannot suffer Knight to be executed without doing all that can be done to have his life spared.’ Immediately on receipt of this, I went to my friends in the City, first to one and then another, to influential bankers and merchants, but they were all particularly engaged. I then called on Dr. Lushington, and told him I wanted him to go with me to Newgate. He replied, ‘Well, Bedford, if you wish it, I will not say I will go with you with pleasure, but I will go with you.’ And we went. Knight was now left for execution on the following Wednesday.

"Previously to our reaching Newgate, I said, 'Now, Lushington, it is necessary to take care not to raise any expectations of this poor fellow's life being spared.'

"We reached the prison and obtained the interview. I kept in the background and left the Doctor to speak with him. After he had addressed him in a very suitable manner on the occasion, the lad turned round to him and said, 'Sir, I didn't steal the watch.' 'Why, what do you mean?' said the doctor. 'Indeed, sir, I didn't steal the watch. It was John Grew, a weaver in Spitalfields; and, sir, there's a boy now in the prison that can tell you all about it. His name is Green.'

"The Doctor conferred with me, and I seated myself on the bench by the side of the poor boy Knight, and said to him, 'Well, Knight, this is very extraordinary. Why do you attempt to say you are innocent of the crime for which you have been tried and pronounced guilty?' I spoke very kindly to him, but still he persevered in saying, 'Indeed, sir, I didn't steal it.'

"I afterwards learned that he did not steal the watch though he had attempted to do so. It appeared that Knight raised the watch in the gentleman's fob, but withdrew without accomplishing his object, believing he was discovered. As he was retreating, another man named Grew effected the robbery. Grew, however, eluded the grasp of the gentleman, who at once seized Knight and held him, and afterwards, at the trial, swore that he had never let him go. That was the ground on which Lord Sidmouth ordered his execution.

"Well, we talked to Knight about the awfulness of his situation, and how serious a thing it would be for him to

continue to deny the fact, if it was a fact, and to die with a lie upon his tongue.

“With an impression that he was guilty, the Doctor and I left him; we then saw the boy Green, who confirmed all that Knight had said. Well, we met that evening, at William Allen’s, in Plough-court, with others of our friends who were interested in the subject of promoting the rescue and reformation of juvenile delinquents. It was there fixed that Doctor Lushington should meet me afterwards at my house to obtain an interview with Knight’s father. We found the poor man so crushed and stupefied as hardly to be able to give us an answer to any of our questions. He said he was going into Shoreditch, and might perhaps be able to bring us some useful information on the matter. Just after he had gone out, I said to the Doctor, ‘Hadn’t I better bring him back, and let him take us to the Virginia Planter?’ ‘Oh yes,’ by all means, said the Doctor. I then went after the man and brought him back, and said, ‘Now, Knight, take us to the Virginia Planter.’ This was a public-house at the corner of Thrall Street, Spitalfields, and a most notorious place of resort for thieves.

“When we arrived there, we sent Knight in at the tap-room door, and told him to stop everybody in the place. We went in at the bar-door, and said we wanted to see the young folks that were in the bar-room; adding that we had come about Knight, the prisoner, under sentence of death. We had them invited into a back-parlour, and there I met with a well-known low character, one Bill Horne. We now stated the anxiety we felt to save the life of poor Knight if we could prove his innocence.

“Bill knew all about it, and said, ‘the real thief was John Grew.’ ‘Well,’ we said, ‘we must have him to-night; for Knight is about to be executed.’ Bill replied, ‘You can’t have him to night, we don’t know where he is; but you shall know to-morrow.’” Bill’s heart was touched with the kindness of the motive we had in view, and promised he would do the best he could to find him out. We requested that as soon as any information was obtained, Bill and his companions would come to my house, as I lived in the neighbourhood. But here again I was in some difficulty, because I had only two female servants in the house, in which also was a good deal of property. I did not know what might happen with such visitors as I expected. So I deliberated as to what I should do, and whether I should stay at home from going to our usual Friends’ meeting for worship. I decided to let everything go on as usual. Just before going to meeting, I informed the single servant left at home, as to what kind of people might possibly come during my absence, and, should such be the case, requested her to send them on to me. So I went off to meeting, at Devonshire House, Houndsditch, and had been there only about twenty minutes, when I saw the door slowly open, and the father of poor Knight enter. I then left my seat and went out with him, and in the yard we found Bill Horne, Grew himself, and the young man that received the watch from his hand, together with some other companions.

“Grew accosted me, and said, ‘As soon as I knew, Mr. Bedford, that you were wishing to find me out, I deter-

mined I would come to you ; and there is the person that received the watch.' I said, ' Walk with me to my house,' and thither I went, escorted by such a company as that. When we reached it, I took them into the parlour, brought out my portable writing-desk, sat down, and recorded, in the form of depositions, all the information I could gain, especially that from the culprit himself. I then fixed for them to be at my house again the next morning at eight o'clock.

" Meanwhile I sent off to Dr. Lushington, to let him know that at that hour I had appointed an interview with these people, and invited him to be at my house by nine, and also to inform Fowell Buxton of the matter. The doctor accordingly got his horse and rode off to Buxton. We also sent information to our friends Thomas and Edward Foster, of St. Helen's Place.

" Next day Dr. Lushington met the party at my house, and investigated the case most thoroughly, and in consequence became perfectly satisfied that Knight had only made the attempt to steal the watch, but, though innocent of the fact, was guilty of being concerned. All our evidence was now complete, except the proof afforded by the watch itself. On enquiry, we ascertained that it had been lodged with a pawnbroker in the Borough, for £3. I thought it was most important for us to have the watch, and resolved to obtain it ; but, as it was stolen property, and I knew it to be such, the doctor said to me, ' Bedford, mind what you are doing.' I replied, ' Yes, doctor, I think I do know what I am about.

" I then took Knight's father aside into another parlour, and said, ' Knight, we *must* have that watch.' He

replied, 'I have not got the money to get it.' I answered, 'The watch *must* be had.' I then talked to him about his son's case for some time. The poor man was exceedingly distressed. At length I dismissed him, previously, however, putting my hand into my pocket and giving him £3. Had I not a right to give him £30 if I had liked? And had I not said, 'We *must* have the watch?'

"We now arranged that all our party were to meet again at Edward Foster's, at St. Helen's Place, at ten o'clock. There were there Fowell Buxton, Dr. Lushington, Edward Foster, and myself, and also all those other people and the watch. Thomas Foster had been sent forward to the Home Office to request an interview with Lord Sidmouth.

"After going fairly into our plans, two coaches were ordered. We went in one (with the watch), and Knight, Grew, and Horne in the other. Thomas Foster was waiting at the Home Office for us, and we promptly obtained an interview with Lord Sidmouth.

"Fowell Buxton, on this occasion, took up the subject, stating all the details of the case. Then Dr. Lushington spoke on the awfulness of taking away human life under such circumstances. It was my belief that Lord Sidmouth's political feelings towards the Doctor operated very sadly against poor Knight. He said, 'Dr. Lushington, you cause horrible feelings in my mind; but I tell you that if, after investigating the case, or any such case, and giving it the best attention I could, even if I were mistaken, I should think it right, under the circumstances, that the execution should go on; for the person who lost the watch

swore positively that he seized the man by the collar, and never let him go. I believe Lord Sidmouth entertained that idea of the case most sincerely; but he was in error. We entreated Lord Sidmouth to see the young man. 'No,' he replied; 'but Mr. So-and-so at the Office will examine him.'

"We went with Grew to the official named; and, after his examination, when we got outside the building, Dr. Lushington clapped his hands, and said, 'Oh, Bedford, we have saved his life!' But Buxton, who entertained doubts on the subject, answered, 'I am not sure of that.'

"I now went into the country, and on the Thursday morning I received a note from Dr. Lushington, saying, 'My dear Bedford, I have just seen Mr. Bowler at Newgate, and I find that Knight was executed, declaring his innocence three times, when the cap was drawn over his face, and thus he died.'

"On my return to London, we called together a number of gentlemen interested in the subject, and their opinion was, that there was something further for us to do in the matter, and that we ought to endeavour to meet all the juvenile delinquents in the neighbourhood where Knight had been known, and his associates in particular. The proposition was, that Dr. Lushington and myself should go down again to the Virginia Planter, and get all the poor creatures together, or as many of them as we could, and then address them. A few days elapsed, and we had meanwhile arranged for a meeting of these juvenile delinquents, and had taken measures to have them invited to hear us, on the evening of the day on which poor Knight's body was buried. Doctor Lushington

called at my house shortly before the time appointed ; but, before starting with me, he took out his pocket-book, gold watch, and gold snuff-box, all of which I locked up in my desk, and we then walked on arm-in-arm, threading our way through the dirty, narrow streets. As we were going along, the Doctor said, ' Well, I don't feel quite as I should like.' ' Indeed, Doctor,' said I, ' how is it ? What is the cause ? ' On asking him further if he was afraid of anything occurring, ' Oh, Bedford,' he replied, ' if it was that, I would tell you ; but I should be ashamed to tell you—it is not on that account.' We then walked on in silence, and missed our way. (Perhaps the good Doctor felt a little regret at having divested himself of his property, rather than going forward on his benevolent work in perfect reliance on the Divine protection, if not with complete confidence in the persons he was going amongst.) After some time, on a sudden we came upon the place. The Doctor here stood still, and for a few moments was engaged, apparently, in silent prayer. ' Now,' he said, ' I am ready.'

" We went in and found the room filled ; still there were many who did not like to show themselves, but kept in the passages. Ours was not intended to be a mere matter of talk, but of real usefulness, and we had a proposition to make. At the meeting at Plough Court, £300 had been offered, to place us in a position to admit every young delinquent into the Refuge, if willing to enter.

" Well, the Doctor began, and addressed them most impressively. He said, ' Young men ! you know that when Mr. Bedford and I were here last, we came with a

view of saving the life of your associate, if it were possible ; *but his character was bad*. You know that he had been living in a course of life that was disreputable ; and to that may, in a great measure, be attributed our want of success in endeavouring to save him, though we believe that he was not guilty of the crime for which he suffered. However, you know that his life has been forfeited, and I have to tell you, young men, every one of you, that your fate will be similar to that of your poor associate Knight, if you do not forsake the course of life that you are in ; or at least you will be transported to another country.'

The Doctor began upon a low key, but rose as he continued. It was most interesting. He then described the horrors of transportation, and concluded by recommending them to alter their course of life. He said, 'There are probably some amongst you that would be glad to alter your conduct ; but who, very likely, may be so circumstanced that it is impossible for them to maintain themselves in a respectable manner, having lost their characters, and having departed from the paths of rectitude and honesty. But I have to tell you that some gentlemen have made arrangements for the assistance of any such characters as those who may be sorry for their past wicked course, and who may now repent and wish to alter their mode of living. Such may now be put into the way of becoming respectable and reputable members of the community.'

"I then made a few observations, and told them that any further information they might desire on the subject might be obtained on applying to myself, as I should be happy to aid them.

“It was about ten o'clock at night when we turned out of this place, and were surrounded by a crowd of thieves of different ages. One of them said to me, ‘Mr. Bedford are you afraid?’ ‘Afraid!’ I said; ‘what have I to be afraid of? I am sure that none of you would hurt me or this gentleman.’ ‘No, sir,’ was the reply; ‘if you were covered with jewels, you would not lose one of them. But if you are at all afraid, we will form a guard, and see you safe to your own house.’

“Wishing to enquire about our proposed plan, some of them came to my house, and I told them of the Refuge for the Destitute at Hoxton. Several of them went to see it, and concluded to accept the offer at once. They first went back, however, having some matters to settle, and fell in with some of their old companions, who discouraged them from going to the Refuge.

“One young man of their company called on me afterwards alone, and, after stating his case and learning what I had in view, said, ‘Oh, sir, can you do anything for my poor sister?’ He marched up and down the room in the greatest agony imaginable. I never saw a poor creature more distressed than he was. I asked him, ‘What was the case of his sister?’ Then he described it. He had placed her on the brink of ruin, as on a precipice, having introduced her to some of his associates. But she was a virtuous young woman. I said, ‘I will try to do something.’ I conferred with the clergyman of the parish, and we got her into an institution; and she proved one of the best cases they ever had, upright and virtuous, yet just snatched from destruction. But it was shocking to witness the agony of the poor fellow. His gratitude

afterwards was very great. The girl subsequently obtained a good situation. There was a tradesman in Spitalfields with several sons, one of whom formed an attachment to her. But, before accepting his proposals, she said to his father, 'I cannot listen to any offer, until you go and ascertain from Mr. Bedford all that he knows of the circumstances of my case.' Accordingly the tradesman came to my house, and explained to me how the matter stood. I answered, 'that I had only to say, that if it was left to me, I should encourage the young woman to accept the offer of his son.' I found that this person had been to my house before. He attended one of the Friends' public meetings, at which a minister from America had preached on some subject in a manner which this man did not understand, and he afterwards called at my house to ask for some explanations.

"The young couple married and set up in business not far from London. A year or two afterwards, I was passing their shop, and saw the husband behind the counter, and his wife with a nice little child in her arms, and looking so thoroughly happy, that I could not muster courage to revive old remembrances, so I passed on without going in.

BILL HORNE AND THE STOLEN LUGGAGE.

"Having just now mentioned Bill Horne, I will tell you something more about him. A member of the Society of Friends, having just married, went off with his bride to spend the honeymoon in Yorkshire. They did not travel by railways at that time, for there were none; and on their return, they came back through the Eastern Counties.

On reaching London, and driving in their own carriage through Brick Lane in the dusk of the evening, there was a stoppage. Whilst they were thus waiting for other vehicles to move on, some one rapped at their carriage door and said, 'Sir, your portmanteau is gone. The man that stole it has gone down that street.' The bridegroom jumped out and went in search of the portmanteau (leaving the bride somewhat alarmed for her personal safety). He had, however, to abandon the pursuit. The loss of the portmanteau was the more annoying, as it contained the bridal apparel which would be required on their arrival home, where their relatives were expected to welcome them.

"One of my friends called on me that evening at six o'clock, and said, 'Peter Bedford, we are in trouble!' 'What is the matter, Edwin?' He then repeated that the newly married party were in embarrassment, and that he had come to see if I could help them to recover their stolen property. I promised my assistance so far as practicable. In making this promise, I had Bill Horne in my mind; for I had learnt that his business was to cut the straps of portmanteaus with a sort of weeding hook.

We sallied forth and went down Spitalfields together. I enquired of a woman where Bill lived. She said she could not tell me the name of the place, but she could show me where it was. She then took us into Wentworth Street, and pointed out the house to us. The most disgusting female figure that ever I saw in my life filled the doorway. However, I went up to her and said, 'Is Bill Horne within?' 'No sir, he is not.' 'Where is he? Is he nigh at hand?' 'Yes, sir.' 'Then let him know I

want to see him at once on special business ; ask him to come to my house.' I enquired of the woman if she knew me, and she replied, ' Oh yes, I know who you are,—Mr. Bedford.'

" We then returned to my house, and soon afterwards Bill made his appearance. I at once challenged him for his reason for stealing a portmanteau from the carriage of one of my friends. ' Oh, sir, I didn't do it ! ' I replied, half in earnest, half in jest, that he should have prevented any one from taking such a liberty with a friend of mine. ' But, sir, I did not know it was a friend of yours. It was done by another young man.' ' Well,' I said, ' never mind about who did it. We must have the portmanteau and all its contents.' ' No, sir, you can't. It's " cracked." ' He meant that it was broken up ; for, as portmanteaus can be identified, thieves break them up immediately. ' Well, then,' said I, ' we must have the contents, and they must be here by ten o'clock this evening.' ' I don't think it can be done, sir.' ' *It must be done.*'

So the bridegroom and Edward Harris waited at my house till the evening. By-and-bye the bell rang, and some one was let in. I went into the room, and there was not only Bill Horne, but another young man with him. Seeing they had come without the missing property, I exclaimed, ' How is it you have not brought these things ? ' ' The police won't let us,' they replied ; ' but you shall have them to-morrow morning by eight o'clock. We really can't bring them to-night.' Bill then began to enumerate several articles it contained—as a watch, silk stockings, &c.

"In the morning, about eight or nine o'clock, Horne brought the things, and was shown into my parlour. Edward Harris and William Tindall were with me there. As soon as Bill Horne saw the latter, he looked at me and said, 'Oh, sir, is it all right?' For his heart failed him, and he thought I had a police-officer with me. I told him it was all right, he might depend upon it. He answered, 'Well, sir, I could trust my life in your hand.'

"Such was the effect of kindness. Well, the things were all brought except a few trifles. They had been divided amongst several parties, and they could not collect all together again. I didn't give them a shilling for their trouble, and don't know whether they expected anything or not. I said nothing about it."



CHAPTER III.

SOCIETY FOR INVESTIGATING THE CAUSES OF THE ALARMING INCREASE OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN THE METROPOLIS—LEARY'S CASE—SOCIETY FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF PRISON DISCIPLINE—CASE OF SPICER AND KELLY—TWO OTHER CASES.

SOCIETY FOR INVESTIGATING THE CAUSES OF THE ALARMING INCREASE OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN THE METROPOLIS.

THE case of Knight brought Mr. Bedford, Dr. Lushington, and others into increased interest in the condition of their unfortunate criminal neighbours, and more particularly the juvenile portion of them. Encouraged by the successful results of philanthropic co-operation for other objects, it was resolved to organize a society for investigating, and, as far as possible, for removing, the causes of the terrible amount of juvenile crime and degradation found to exist in London, and especially in the neighbourhood of Spitalfields.

Mr. Bedford and Mr. William Crawford agreed to act as the secretaries of the new society. Mr. Thomas Furley Forster accepted the office of treasurer, and a committee of fifty benevolent and intelligent gentlemen, of various religious denominations, united together in the general operations of the association. Amongst the list were the names of Messrs. Basil Montague (senior and junior), David Ricardo, Josiah Conder, Warwick Weston, Thomas

Fowell Buxton, Walter Venning, Charles Stokes Dudley, William Allen, John Thomas Barry, Robert Christmas, Josiah Forster, Robert Forster, Joseph Jackson Lister, Joseph Sanderson, Jacob Post, and Samuel Hoare, jun.

Sub-committees, systematically as well as incidentally, instituted inquiries and observations respecting the condition of the unfortunate and neglected young people of East London. For instance, here is Mr. Bedford's brief account of one such visit of investigation in which he was concerned :—

“On one occasion, I went with a friend to a house in Petticoat Lane, with the owner of which I was acquainted. We told him that we were desirous of having an interview with juvenile delinquents, whom we thought he could get together for us. And we desired that we might see them separately, one by one. Such an interview was accordingly arranged for us ; and we were shown into a parlour, where the poor youths came to us one by one, acknowledging and describing their thefts, and their course of life. The amount of information we thus obtained for the society was very considerable. Our character was up, and we were known as the friends of the thieves.”

In twelve months from the foundation of this society, in 1815, a large amount of sadly interesting information was got together. But investigation was not the only object of the association, for where relief could, with propriety, be extended to youths disposed to return to the paths of virtue, such aid was most cheerfully rendered. Referring to the statements put forth by the committee, it appears that they determined that the prisons of the metropolis should be regularly visited by sub-committees

appointed for that purpose ; the youths there in confinement separately examined and privately counselled, the evil consequences of their conduct set forth, and every persuasive used for their recovery which kindness could suggest. They were informed of the miseries and punishment of many of their former associates in guilt, and opportunities were diligently seized to impress forcibly upon them the painful consequences of crime and the bright contrast presented by the paths of honesty, industry, and religion.

The committee drew up questions adapted for obtaining the needful information. The metropolis was divided into districts, and these allotted to sub-committees, who, as we have just related in Mr. Bedford's own words, diligently laboured in their object. Lists of names, amounting at length to more than seven hundred, of the associates of youths in prison, were obtained and made a basis for as many visits and inquiries.

The results of all these researches were truly awful to contemplate, and presented a record of temptation, ignorance, and destitution sufficient to account for almost any extent of vice and crime, indeed for far more than was actually committed, though this was a frightful amount.

Thousands of boys were found wholly subsisting by robbery, and associating with multitudes of unfortunate girls in similar or worse condition, and with hardened and most depraved elder criminals. The chief causes of such misery and vice were found to consist (then as now) in the absence of right instruction and the presence of evil training by parents and adult companions, in the want of employment, in the temptations of hunger, poverty, and

cold, in filthy and comfortless crowded hovels. The inevitable consequences of such physical and moral destitution were theft, falsehood, deception, prostitution, gambling, and Sabbath desecration. There were also in 1815 several powerful causes of crime, which happily have disappeared (wholly or chiefly) in the course of the subsequent fifty years. These were in particular the Draconian severity of the criminal code in those "hanging days," the worse than inefficacy of the police, and the horrible condition of the prisons, notwithstanding the arduous labours of Howard in the preceding generation. Rewards often amounting to considerable sums of money were paid to the police or others who gave information leading to the conviction of various classes of criminals. To obtain this "blood money" many a poor unsuspecting and even guileless youth was enticed into crime by the vilest of criminals, and by the police themselves, who then gave information of, and received a bounty for, the very offences which they had conceived, planned, suggested, aided, and secured the commission of.

From many cases, personally known to Mr Bedford and his friends, we select a brief notice of a few :—

No. 1.—At the age of *thirteen* years had had sentence of death *twice* passed on him ! His father was very intemperate, and had left his child to the worst of associates, who taught him to gamble, and took him to their haunts. The boy had already been five years an habitual delinquent, and had been imprisoned for three separate offences.

No. 2.—At the age of *ten* years was undergoing a sentence of seven years' imprisonment for picking pockets ! His mother only was living, but he did not know where

she resided. He had very good capacity, but could not read. When first visited he manifested much anxiety about his condition ; but a brief confinement amid the contaminations of a London prison in those days, effaced every favourable impression.

No. 3.—At the age of *eight* years had been brought up at the several police-offices upon *eighteen* separate charges ! Had been twice confined in the House of Correction and three times in Bridewell. Was very ignorant, but of a good capacity. His father was dead, and his mother an immoral character. Had been in the habit of stealing for upwards of two years. In Covent Garden Market there was a party of between thirty and forty boys who slept every night under the sheds and baskets. These most pitiable objects, when they rose in the morning, had no other means of gaining a livelihood but by the commission of crime. This child was one of the number.

And no wonder that the poor creatures were thieves or worse. They were so by an awful and irresistible necessity. Their only alternative was immediate crime for daily bread, or the stony and ice-cold mercies of the horrible old work-houses of the period, so graphically and truly described by Charles Dickens in "Oliver Twist."

The great mass of human crime and sin remains to be ever the fruit of ignorance and misfortune. Victor Hugo, in his "Les Miserables," and Charles Dickens in the above and other works, have but enforced in other words, and in familiar form, the solemn declaration of Holy Writ, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." (Hosea iv. 6.) Whilst the consciously and wilfully sinful are justly punished for their wickedness, surely there is,

somewhere, a merciful justice for poor, ignorant and compulsorily erring ones like those unfortunate lads. It is not for a moment to be doubted that when such pitiable ones have sometimes passed from the judgment seat to the condemned cell, and to the gallows, for offences comparatively trivial, that they have also passed into a presence of perfect justice, a *justice* truly perfect, *because truly merciful*, and combining all kingly power with all fatherly compassion. The dismissory words of almost solemn mockery, as it would sometimes seem to be the case in those days, by the earthly judge, "And may the Lord have mercy on your soul," were, it is not to be doubted, eventually fulfilled in instance upon instance, such as those of the above poor youths, with a reality, a permanence and a glorious comprehensiveness of application, purely and characteristically accordant with that Holy One, our Saviour, whose name is Love.

Were it not so, the records of the past and the prospects of the future would be intolerably painful and confounding.

We may here quote a striking passage from a letter of enquiry addressed by Mr. Bedford's friend, Basil Montague (one of the Committee of the Juvenile Delinquency Society), to the Rev. Mr. Forde, the ordinary of Newgate. The latter replied, "The *chief* cause of the origin of crime is to be ascribed, in my humble opinion, to the *want of early instruction in reading*; consequently a total ignorance of religion, as well as of every moral principle. Indeed, the lower orders are, by habit, so far familiarized with the Divine being as to *swear* by Him; but they neither believe in Him nor pray to Him. And

why? Because they have not been made acquainted with Him in their *youth*; nor have they enjoyed the greatest of all blessings as well as comforts, that of being instructed in His holy Word. You cannot expect these people to *practise* what they do not *know*."

The benevolent clergyman then goes on to relate how, a few years previously, he had observed, one Sunday, sitting in the condemned prisoners' pew, at Newgate, twelve men, who, from their dress and demeanour, seemed fit for introduction into the best society. On giving out the psalm, he found that neither of the twelve took up the prayer-book, and throughout the service they manifested the utmost ignorance of the proceedings and of the order of devotion. Afterwards, Mr. Forde questioned them as to the cause of their want of attention, and found that, although professing to be Churchmen, they were all unable to read, had never been in the habit of attending church, nor had been their parents before them. "Then how came you to call yourselves Churchmen? What is the meaning of the word Churchman?" asked the Ordinary. One of the prisoners replied, "I really do not know, sir; but this I am sure of, that I am no Catholic, nor any one of my family." "Were you ever taught the Catechism?" "I never heard of it in my life."

And, adds Mr. Forde, "I could quote several instances of similar ignorance amongst criminals. Can it be expected that such poor, untaught creatures can be sensible of the immorality of their conduct? *Certainly not*."

In the half century that has elapsed since the above letter was written, a great increase of education has taken place. And of very late years, through the practical

adoption of some of the philanthropic principles, acted on by the good men of the Spitalfields Association, the progress of juvenile delinquency in this country has been decidedly arrested. And we have the prospect of a happier future for the hitherto grievously neglected youthful portions of the poorer class of the community. This is owing, in special measure, to the practical attention given to questions of Social Science, as for instance in the establishment of reformatories through the persevering and Christian efforts of enlightened and philanthropic persons, amongst whom may be named in particular, Lord Shaftesbury, Lord Brougham, Lord Stanley, Sir John Pakington, Joseph Sturge, Miss Carpenter, Miss F. P. Cobbe, Matthew Davenport Hill, Mr. T. B. L. Baker, and the Right Hon. C. B. Adderley.

Another very effective and important influence for good in the present day, is to be found in the truly extraordinary mass of cheap literature "of a religious and interesting nature" monthly poured forth over the nation. There must be a demand, or the supply would not so continue and increase as it does. Some half-dozen London houses alone issue millions upon millions of remarkably cheap and excellent literature every month; as, for instance, the Religious Tract Society, Messrs. Strahan, Nelson, Partridge, Nesbit, Cassell, and Paul, while the *British Workman*, *Leisure Hour*, and similar excellent and very cheap periodicals, have also a wonderful issue.

But notwithstanding all these agencies for good to the youthful population, very much remains to be accomplished, as is sorrowfully shown by the Third Report of the Children's Employment Commission (1864). This

report proves the continuance of an astounding amount of ignorance, especially in the iron working districts of England. Thus amongst a number of persons visited in the neighbourhood of Birmingham, thirty-two (some of whom were from seventeen to twenty years of age), were found ignorant of the Queen's name. Very many proved to be utterly destitute of the simplest rudiments of religious instruction, being completely ignorant of God and of our Saviour, of heaven, hell, and hereafter. Amongst the replies received and recorded by the Commission, we find such as the following: "I've heard of Christ but don't know what *it* is." "The devil is a good person; I don't know where he lives." "Christ was a wicked man." "I have heard about Jesus Christ; but it's so long since that I've forgot." "I have not got a soul;" and so on. Others answered, when questioned respecting the commonest matters of every-day information, with equal unintelligence. "Ireland is a little town;" "the sea is made of land, not of water;" "a violet is a pretty bird;" "a cow's a lion;" and so forth.

If such is manifestly the condition at the present day of no inconsiderable fraction of our British population, it is evident that notwithstanding all the social progress accomplished since the institution of the valuable philanthropic labours at the commencement of this century, by good men like Mr. Bedford and his associates, much, very much, yet remains to be done both by individual and collective effort. And it is a very cheering fact, that this necessity, this responsibility, is being so widely and increasingly felt and acted upon, as is now happily witnessed around us. The prophets of other days have

ascended to their heavenly rest, but their mantles have fallen upon more than a few like-minded successors.

LEARY'S CASE.

We may here appropriately introduce Mr. Bedford's narrative of a circumstance very similar to some that have been already mentioned, and which greatly aroused his interest in the condition of young criminals after their arrest and whilst suffering in prison the punishment of their misdeeds.

"The first thing that led me to Newgate was seeing an account of the trial and conviction of John Leary; that also (like Knight's case) was for stealing a watch, a crime punishable with death at that period.

"John Leary was an Irish boy, and only twelve years of age. Juvenile delinquency was so increasing at the time of his particular offence being committed, that it appeared probable that the case would be treated severely, and that the Government would make an example of this boy although so very young. The circumstances were so shocking to me when I read of them in the newspapers, that I could not rest satisfied at my own fireside without making some effort in the matter.

"Accordingly I went to Newgate (and it was the first time of my going there on such an errand), and with the permission of the Ordinary I obtained an interview with Leary, who had now been sentenced to death, and when I found him was standing in one corner of the room with his arms a-kimbo, and looking as bold as any lion. We were informed that he had been the captain of a gang of young thieves, and had had charge of 'the regulars,' that

is, of the proceeds of their depredations, to the amount of £280. That sum was however stolen from them by an elder thief.

“ Not being at all satisfied with my first interview with the boy, I went again, and meeting the Ordinary, as before, requested particularly that he would be good enough to contrive a private interview with the lad for me. He replied, ‘ You shall have him in the day-room alone, if you like ; or, I will have all the others in the day-room and you can see him on the staircase.’ I answered, that I thought the staircase would be the better place, and then turning to a young person who had accompanied me to Newgate said, ‘ Go with Dr. Cotton (the Ordinary) into the day-room and keep him in conversation until I come again ; don’t let us be interrupted.’ The boy then came and stood before me ; but, instead of being the bold and impudent youth he had appeared on the previous occasion when with his companions, he now, after standing in silence for a few minutes, and before I had spoken a word to him, showed much emotion. The tears began to flow down his cheeks until they wetted the floor beneath. I then took his hand and commenced speaking to him ; and the more kindly I spoke the more the poor boy was affected. Oh ! it was touching in a great degree ! After I had said what I thought right as to the awfulness of such a course of life and what it would end in ; he turned round and would have given me a whole history of his life ; but I stopped him, because I thought that if the counsel which I had now given the poor fellow was calculated to do him any good, surely his going over his whole course of wickedness would have the effect of dissipating

the impressions. So I told him that I should see him again.

"I ought to state that previous to my second interview with Leary he had received a respite of the capital penalty.

"The gentleman from whom he had stolen the watch had become so much interested in the lad when he heard all the circumstances of his case, that at the trial he came forward and said everything he could in favour of the boy; and, when the latter was found guilty, this gentleman begged the court to give the youth up to him, instead of sending him to prison among depraved convicts. It was eventually arranged that the sentence should be mitigated, and that the boy should be sent to the Philanthropic Reform School in St. George's Fields. There he was placed in an apartment on the first floor of the house, but he appears to have soon found his confinement very irksome and to have schemed an escape, although the windows were barred and the doors made very secure.

"Some months afterwards I one day visited Coldbath Fields prison with my friend Crawford. We went into the boys' yard, and they were collected together for us to see. Whilst we were with them the Governor passed by and inquired of the officers where Jones was? They replied, that he had been there a few minutes previously; and, on searching for him, presently found him and he took his place with the others. On seeing him, I said to my friend, 'Why, Crawford, that's Leary!' 'Oh! Bedford, you are mistaken.' 'Indeed, I am not.' I went up to the boy, put my hand under his chin and found I was not mistaken. Drawing him out of the ranks, I went across the yard with him, sat down on a form and enquired

how it was I saw him there. He told me that he did not like the Reformatory, and having looked about for some mode of escape from it could see no other way than the chimney.

“This, however, was so small that with his jacket and waistcoat he could not get up. So taking off his clothes he folded them up, fastened a piece of string round them, and, holding one end of this string between his teeth, climbed the chimney and managed to get away from the building. He had no sooner done this, however, than he was secured by a watchman. Having a little silk handkerchief he proffered it to the latter as a bribe, and was successful in persuading him to let him complete his escape.

“He then returned to his old associates, soon committed a fresh crime, was again arrested and tried (under a false name), and sentenced to transportation.

“Eventually he was sent to Sydney, where he grew up a fine, strong man. There one day, with a comrade, he seized a boat in the harbour, and managed to get away along the coast to some other part of the colony, and so effect his liberty. It was supposed at the time that he had been drowned; but there is reason to believe that he managed, ultimately, to return to England.

“Many years afterwards there was a great robbery at the London Custom House. A strong man was arrested for it, tried, found guilty and transported. I heard that Dr. Cotton, the ordinary of Newgate, ascertained that the prisoner was the identical Leary, though he would not acknowledge it. I did not hear of this in time, or I should have gone to see him; but he was

removed to Plymouth and I have heard nothing of him since.

“Well, that was the first case that led me to visit the prisons of London. I got more information respecting young thieves, who were a multitude in number and were living in the most outrageous and abominable way. I had conferred with some of my friends, and we had formed an Association for the Reformation of Juvenile Delinquents, about the same time that Elizabeth Fry was visiting the female prisoners. Our society led to great results. A large number of excellent characters united together and organized a plan for visiting the prisons, and we obtained from the poor young creatures there the names and addresses of their parents and associates. Of these we visited about eight hundred, and the scenes of iniquity and vice thus revealed to us could not be easily described. But we pursued our labours. The Refuge for the Destitute, at Hoxton, used to take our cases. The operations of our Society for the Reformation of Juvenile Delinquents led to the formation of another similar one, the Society for the Reformation of Prison Discipline. The labours of the latter association also have been abundantly blessed; and to its efforts may be traced, in a great degree, the contrast between the condition of our prisons at the present time and that which existed when our work began.”

SOCIETY FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF PRISON DISCIPLINE.

As we have just shown, in Mr. Bedford's own words, this society originated in the efforts and observations of the Association for the Reformation of Juvenile Delin-

quents. The state of the metropolitan prisons, brought to light during the visits to the young offenders confined in them, horrified and astounded the benevolent gentlemen engaged in the work of visitation; and, notwithstanding their numerous and pressing engagements (both public and private), they resolved to add to their other philanthropic objects of labour that of prison reform.

Mr. Bedford and his valued friend Crawford became the secretaries. Mr. Samuel Hoare, jun., was appointed chairman of the committee, and Mr. Thomas Furley Forster its treasurer. The Duke of Gloucester kindly permitted his name to appear as the patron of the society; whilst Dr. Lushington and Messrs. Thomas Fowell Buxton and William Allen, as members of the committee, rendered the most vigorous and efficient aid to the indefatigable secretaries.

Mr. Buxton, in particular, took in hand the management of a systematic series of enquiries and observations into the condition of the prisons and prisoners in the metropolis and some of the home counties. Thousands of the inmates of these were mere boys. In 1817 the list of boys imprisoned in *Newgate alone* amounted to 359.

A circumstance which had much influence in calling forth the operations of this Society was a visit of a ministerial nature paid to Newgate in the winter of 1812-13 by a French gentleman named Stephen Grellet, the most active Quaker missionary of modern times (deceased a few years ago). He was accompanied by Peter Bedford and William Forster (father of the present Mr. W. E. Forster, M.P.), who were deeply affected by the scenes there witnessed. Mr. Grellet and his friends had an interview

(amongst others) with four condemned criminals, the occupants of one cell. Whilst preaching to the wretched inmates, the wife and two children of one of the latter came to take their final leave of him. The younger child, only eight years of age, was terror-struck at seeing his father in chains and in such a place. Mr. Bedford was well acquainted with the child's grandparents, who were honest and pious weavers in Spitalfields, and greatly distressed at the wretched career and melancholy end of their unfortunate son.

After visiting the male prisoners, Mr. Grellet and his companions proceeded to the women's wards; and here they were so shocked at the spectacles of misery and vice witnessed, that, on leaving the prison, Mr. Grellet went to his friend Mrs. Elizabeth Fry (wife of Mr. Fry of Mildred's Court, Cheapside), and earnestly solicited her good offices as a Christian woman, in doing something to alleviate the horrible condition of the wretched females in Newgate. The kind-hearted lady was so distressed at what her visitor described to her that she immediately purchased a large quantity of flannel, sent out messages to her young lady acquaintances, soliciting their co-operation in making up garments, and thus they were speedily enabled to supply many of the half-naked women and children with the clothing so urgently needed at that inclement season of the year. From this time forward Mrs. Fry took a continued and increasing interest in the condition of the female prisoners, both in Newgate and other gaols, and laboured long and earnestly in collateral action with the members of the Society for the Improvement of Prison Discipline, who directed their efforts more to the male prisoners and to the general question and whole subject of the amelioration of prison treatment.

Mr. Fowell Buxton, as has been mentioned, soon collected a vast amount of well-authenticated information on the subject. This he published, and a large amount of general and influential interest in the matter was excited. With reference to his Report, the committee, in one of their publications, stated that they regarded it "with pride and satisfaction."

It may not be inappropriate here to refer to a few of the facts embodied in Mr. Buxton's Essay. It appeared that at the time of his enquiries (1817-1818), the worst prison horrors of the period antecedent to John Howard's philanthropic labours, had again become prevalent in some (if not all) of the metropolitan and provincial gaols. Thus in the Borough Compter Mr. Buxton found the accommodation for sleeping to be "worse in respect to crowding than that of slaves in the middle passage." Besides this, there was insufficient food, no work, no soap, and no school; vice reigned; filth and blasphemy were the daily life of the prisoners. The healthy and diseased were thrust together night and day. In a space twenty feet long and six wide, on eight stone beds with sixteen rugs, and with a piece of timber for a bolster, twenty prisoners slept side by side, and of necessity had to lie "edgeways." In the morning the stench and heat were so oppressive that on waking all had to rush undressed into the yard; and the turnkey told Mr. Buxton that "the smell on the first opening of the door was enough to turn the stomach of a horse." Yet persons afflicted with loathsome and infectious diseases were thus crowded together with others, and all alike swarmed with disgusting vermin. "No cooking utensils were provided. The allowance of food

was fourteen ounces of bread per day, and one pound of the "clods and stickings of beef" twice per week. It was no wonder that in such pandemoniums the wretched inmates grew from bad to worse. A gaoler told Mr. Buxton that in nine years he had never known an instance of reformation.

In another prison visited by Mr. Buxton (at Guildford), he found there was no infirmary, no chapel, no work, no classification, no decency, and no prison dress allowed. Nearly half the inmates were destitute of shirts, shoes, or stockings. The irons were remarkably heavy; and all the prisoners, whether tried or not, were loaded with them.

Such was the condition of English prisons at so recent a period as the concluding years of the regency of "the first gentleman in Europe," a time yet remembered by many still not the oldest amongst us, and when Waterloo had already become a matter of history. It had been well if a few thousand pounds had been appropriated by the Government to remove such abominations, and to relieve such distress at home, when they had so recently been pouring millions of British gold and floods of British blood broadcast over the Continent.

In default of the rapid and sweeping improvements which might have been made had Lord Sidmouth and his colleagues promptly and vigorously given right attention to their duties and opportunities, the work devolved upon the individual and comparatively isolated efforts of a few philanthropic persons, like Buxton, Crawford, Bedford, and their associates. But, under a deep sense of responsibility to God and to Christ, these good men went forward,

slowly at first, but perseveringly, prayerfully, and continuously, year after year. And eventually a wonderful degree of success crowned their labours, especially as the old generation of statesmen passed away, and were succeeded by a race of truly noble, enlightened, and earnest legislators, when the high places of government were filled by rulers such as Brougham, Russell, and Peel, Canning, Grey, Althorpe, and Huskisson.

Before passing on to other branches of philanthropic effort, which long shared Mr. Bedford's attention, we may here introduce one or two further anecdotes of his interest in juvenile delinquents, whether in prison or at large.

Case of Spicer and Kelly.

These were two lads, well known to the police as having committed forgery, and as still retaining forged notes in their possession. The system of giving "blood money" was then in operation, and the sum of £40 was the usual reward given to persons rendering such information as resulted in the conviction of a forger. The police followed the lads, Spicer and Kelly, until they entered a shop and bought some pork, for which they presented a forged bank-note in payment. The officers then arrested them; and they were tried and capitally convicted.

Dr. Lushington, Mr. Bedford, the Forsters, and Mr. Crawford, took up the case, and visited the boys in Newgate. Dr. Lushington drew up a most interesting document, speaking of them as having been "born in iniquity, shapen in crime and vice;" and proceeding further to denounce the horrible system of blood-money, and the conduct of the police in waiting till the boys had parted

with the notes : for if they had arrested them before, as they were able to do, the penalty would only have been of a secondary nature. The youths were, however, respited the night before the day which had been fixed for their execution. Mr. Bedford, with two of his friends, went again to see these boys in Newgate, and was delighted to witness the penitence and grateful feeling manifested by them.

At the same time, there were present two brothers, who had united in robbing a barge on the Thames. Fifteen months previously, they had had a brother, who, being found guilty of a similar crime, was executed for it. These poor fellows seemed to have had no education, and were apparently as senseless as marble, and utterly stupid and hardened. Their two companions, whose sentences had just been mitigated, were, in a manner, broken to pieces with grateful emotion.

Two other Cases.

One evening, Mr. Bedford was walking down Bishopsgate Street, and two young thieves observing him, one of them exclaimed to the other, "There goes a gentleman with a good watch, I'll be bound : and I'll have it." No, you shan't," replied his comrade ; "that won't do ; you don't know who it is. It's Mr. Bedford." And, explaining that he was the friend of thieves and others, he promptly prevented the proposed stealing of the watch.

On another occasion, in the same neighbourhood, a Quaker gentleman lost a gold watch through the dexterity of the thieves. As in other similar instances, applica-

tion was made to Mr. Bedford, to see if restitution could be obtained through his influence. The request was complied with, and success attended the effort. But some of Mr. Bedford's good Quaker brethren, of the stricter rule, felt a little scandalized at the idea of one of their Society being on such intimate and familiarly influential terms with disreputable characters. However, he good-humouredly smiled away their remonstrances, and continued his active exertions in this direction as before.



CHAPTER IV.

SUNDRY PARTICULARS OF MR. BEDFORD'S PRIVATE LIFE AND OF
HIS FRIENDS.

WHILST Mr. Bedford was, as we have seen, actively and publicly engaged in a variety of philanthropic efforts, he continued diligently to look after his business occupation, and to discharge his private and sectarian duties.

His workmen in the house, as well as the out-door silk weavers employed by him, received constant and sympathizing notice from him; and, in their various joys and troubles, he was often a hearty participant, and also in any little scheme for their improvement or welfare. We will quote an instance in his own words:—

“I went on one occasion to see a weaver, who was a very industrious man, with a large family. He had only one loom, instead of three or four (which many of the other weavers have), and was in great poverty. I enquired into his circumstances, and extended a little relief to him, but was so impressed with the excellence of that man's character that I very soon gave him some employment, and ultimately he became my foreman. I found that he used to invite his neighbours to his house about twice a week, and would then read to them, and hold a prayer-meeting.

“Some time after meeting with this person, I was one day conversing with my nephews about our workpeople, amongst whom we had a number of worthy characters.

We thought we could benefit them by opening a small library, supplied with suitable books. So we started with forty or fifty volumes, and a sort of opening meeting was appointed to be held in a vacant room on our premises. This foreman came to me just before the time fixed, and asked if he should light a fire, and if meetings might be held weekly there. I replied that it had only been my intention to circulate the library books, but said I would not object to fortnightly meetings. They were accordingly held, and proved very interesting. Tracts were read, and so on. This man, whose name was Hammond, continued with me several years. At length he found some difficulty in getting on, and determined to go to New Zealand. He went with seventeen relatives, and I hear that he is now a landowner there. A few years ago some Friend's ministers were travelling in New Zealand, and lodged at his house. He goes by the name of Parson Hammond."

Mr. Bedford took a lively interest in the welfare of the young men of the Society of Friends, especially those who were engaged in subordinate situations in the metropolis. It was his general custom to invite ten or twelve of them to dine with him on Sundays, and spend the afternoon in agreeable and instructive conversation; and, whenever any travelling ministers of the Society were in London, they were pretty sure to receive a special welcome to Steward Street, where often a number of young people were brought together by him to receive some edifying address from them, to be followed by a lively, social meal.

A large share of Mr. Bedford's remarkable influence for good, over the young, was owing to this liveliness

and sunny brightness of temperament. Always cheerful and smiling, he welcomed and prompted the healthful openness of youth ; and none are sooner discouraged from a piety not cheerful than the young, those whom it is most important to influence for good at the decisive and formative period of their lives. A youthful acquaintance of Mr. Bedford one day remarked, " What a nice thing it is when folks are good without being disagreeable." There was a sermon in that exclamation. But it was a text which Mr. Bedford illustrated in the affirmative throughout his long life. He was heartily of the opinion expressed long ago by good old Jeremy Taylor, in these words, " It is certain that all which can innocently make a man cheerful does also make him charitable. For grief, and age, and sickness, and weariness, these are peevish and troublesome ; but mirth and cheerfulness are content, and civil, and compliant, and communicative, and love to do good and to swell up to felicity only upon the wings of charity."

Yes, there it is ; " only upon the wings of charity." This was the object of Mr. Bedford's cheerfulness : to comfort those who were in need of it, to sympathize with, and brighten and console ; and even where his sunny temperament came in contact with a frigid reception from some unsympathetic or ungenial nature, he still met discouragement with good humour, and even made it a source of further geniality. Thus, on one occasion, after a visit from a rigid Scotch lady of his own persuasion, and who had administered to him some measure of rebuke for his comparatively unconstrained liberality of act and association, he bore the infliction good humouredly, but after-

wards innocently avenged himself by naming a certain bed of small brownish-red tulips of very unattractive appearance, in his cheerful garden at Croydon, after his well-intentioned but unsympathizing adviser.

Mr. Bedford was always a welcome visitor to school-boys, whether at Spitalfields or elsewhere. There was a Quaker school in particular, at Islington, near the New River Head, some five-and-thirty years ago, in which he took a particular interest. The writer recently heard one of the scholars recurring with much pleasure to Mr. Bedford's visits there. Whenever he appeared at the playground door there was an instant shout of "Oh! there's Peter Bedford." And away ran various boys to pick the best flowers from their little garden-plots, to form a bouquet for the adornment of his drawing-room in Steward Street. The offering was, doubtless, partly from pure gratitude, and also partly from that mixed gratitude which some writer has defined as "a lively sense of favours to come." For it was no uncommon sequel of Mr. Bedford's school visits that a half-holiday was asked and granted. Sometimes he would accompany the youths to Copenhagen Fields, and watch them flying their kites or engaging in other games. On such occasions some boy would be selected, as a special honour, to walk by his side with a large basket of buns, ordered from a neighbouring baker. When Mr. Bedford had any particular philanthropic "lion" in town, he kindly remembered his boys at Islington and took the said "lion" over for their entertainment or instruction. On one of these occasions he brought over an African chief, who greatly amused the boys with his peculiar gymnastic

performances on the long rope, and in other ways. Another time some Seneca Indians were invited there, and induced to make speeches in their native tongue, and otherwise exhibit themselves, as an interesting illustration of the boys' geography lessons. Mr. Bedford was a member of the School Committee, and took a deep personal interest in the lads individually. When they were favourably reported on, as to conduct and attainments, he not only manifested his satisfaction in the usual style by patronizingly stroking their heads and praising them to their companions, but invited them to return to his house to dinner and tea. But, when things had gone wrong and delinquencies had to be reported, then there was no punishment so great as to be brought for rebuke to Mr. Bedford. Sturdy young rebels who had persistently defied the schoolmaster's task and cane, were melted to tears under the fatherly tones of their good friend, and generally gave a hearty promise of better ways in future.

Mr. Bedford never married. Considering his large sympathy and his hearty, genial feelings, this appeared strange to those who knew him; and the more so as he very often, half-seriously, half-jocularly, suggested to his young men visitors their entrance into the sphere of domestic joys and duties. Yet, if rumour spoke truly, there was, once in his life, a time when he himself was similarly intentioned; but matters being, in the issue of events, ordered otherwise than as he hoped, his plans were altered to a life of single usefulness, but by no means of cheerless solitude. The companionship of younger and elder always grouped itself around him, even to the end; and, perhaps, his usefulness was far greater as he was than as he might have been.

But, though wifeless and childless, he abundantly discharged a parent's duties to a large family of intelligent nephews and nieces, the children of a deceased sister. To these he was a most affectionate relative, and by his care and influence efficiently secured their entrance on useful and honourable spheres of life.

Great activity characterized him. He was continually taking journeys (shorter or longer) in the pursuit of business or of philanthropic and social usefulness. In this energy of movement he was, however, surpassed by three brothers amongst his intimate acquaintances, who shared in more than a few of his good efforts. But, amid all his activity, Mr. Bedford never forgot his geniality and liveliness. He was fond of good-humouredly relating the little embarrassments and mishaps of some of these his graver companions, especially during the petty inconveniences of travel. Thus we have heard him relate with gusto, how on one occasion, returning with two of the three brothers aforesaid from Calais to Dover (after presenting an address against slavery to some of the Continental sovereigns) they found the Channel very rough, and had not got far out of harbour before the pale looks and spasmodic gestures of his grave companions indicated something more than mere uneasiness. Their countenances lengthened considerably, and both of them presently yielded, on unconditional terms, to *mal de mer*, and fairly rolled at full length on the deck, in the rain, spray and wind. Determined not to go below or to forsake his friends, Mr. Bedford took his seat between the two disconsolate travellers, and alternately summoned the steward and his appliances, first to the aid of one and then of another. He then mounted an umbrella; but, being

thus somewhat sheltered from the fresh air, he began to feel a little qualmish himself, and therefore shut it up, boldly faced the weather, and so got fresh and comfortable into Dover, where he had his two tall and broad companions carried helplessly ashore in men's arms, "and," concluded he, "having put my 'children' to bed, I then went out to visit some of my friends in that town."

On another occasion Mr. Bedford went with one of these three brothers to pay a parting visit to a missionary about to sail to the southern hemisphere; and his companion, although not a regular preacher, wished to make some hortatory remarks to the sailors and ship's company. Accordingly he proceeded with Mr. Bedford to the vessel in a boat, but on his route thither was waylaid by his old antagonist, and became very sick. However, after reaching the ship, he became a little better, and the sailors were duly marshalled on deck to listen to the instruction designed for them. But, alas! for human nature, bodily strength does not always keep pace with mental intentions; and, whilst preparing to commence his discourse, the good gentleman had to make a speedy movement in the direction of the bulwarks, and the scene was abruptly terminated by his kind companion Bedford having him carefully lowered into the boat and laid flat in it. He was thus taken ashore again, and after being placed on a sofa, and having restoratives administered, was shortly returned to comfort and peace.

Such little diversities and incidents as these, amongst his philanthropic and religious narratives, gave Mr. Bedford much pleasure in recounting; and they were by no means uninteresting to his auditors.

Many of Mr Bedford's public engagements were chiefly

useful by their affording him further opportunities for forming acquaintances, and so exercising that remarkable power of beneficial private influence, which was his special characteristic. He manifested a lively interest in all the minute details of his friends' circumstances and movements, and was always ready to enquire into, or listen to, the various matters concerning them. He was far from displaying any personal egotism except in the pleasant manner in which he was fond of dwelling on his interesting reminiscences of usefulness to others. The peculiarly wide circle of his friendships and acquaintances did not preclude the maintenance of various special intimacies of a close and very cordial nature. Such, for instance, was the nature of his long friendship with the late Mr. Richard Barrett of Croydon. Their attachment commenced (when both were young men) on the occasion of a conversation entered into during a journey together, and whilst walking up a hill to relieve the horses of a loaded vehicle. They maintained a close and abiding intimacy thenceforth until Mr. Barrett's death in 1855. This gentleman was also through life an active philanthropist, but in a different direction from his friend. The promotion of temperance and peace were the favourite efforts of Mr. Barrett, and no inconsiderable portion of the success of the total abstinence and alliance movements may be traced to his indefatigable labours. Mr. Bedford, though not a teetotaler, was yet a friend to temperance, and, although not enthusiastic in the cause of peace, was ever decidedly of the opinion that war was a great evil, and to be avoided by every possible means. There was much difference between the temperaments of Mr. Bedford and Mr. Barrett. The latter was much graver

and less lively than his friend; a quiet, sober serenity characterized him, and it might be said of him that he was "an Israelite indeed, in whom was no guile." The writer well remembers seeing him in his coffin; and, whilst pensively contemplating the closed eyes and pale countenance of one who had been so perseveringly laborious in various departments of his Master's service, a momentary feeling of gloomy doubt entered, if his being were indeed over, and this the final end of all. But almost instantaneously there came a bright and realizing sense of the cheering import of the grand historic fact of Christ's resurrection and of His endless mediatorial life in heaven. It recurred that even Christ had once been mournfully contemplated as a silent corpse by those around him, and that His faithful disciples in all ages, whilst necessitated to yield awhile to the same temporary power of the pale messenger, yet will all eventually realize the fulfilment of the animating promise of their Lord Himself, "Because I live ye shall live also."

Another friend of Mr. Bedford's, for many a long year, was the late John Thomas Barry, a chief labourer in efforts to abolish the punishment of death. He was also a co-operator in many of the Spitalfields' charitable labours, but selected the amelioration of the penal code as his peculiar line of philanthropic service. And wonderfully did he work at it. Night and day he laboured with tongue and pen in his chosen cause. Whilst aided powerfully by Messrs. Buxton, Lushington, Sydney Taylor, William Allen, William Ewart, M.P., Barrett Lennard, M.P., and up to a certain point by others, the brunt of the work devolved for some years upon himself. When

he commenced his operation, there were between one and two hundred offences punishable with death, and the unfortunate victims of inherited misery and vice were strung up like dogs by the dozen at a time, although these spectacles seemed to increase crime by hardening still further the hearts of those who witnessed such scenes, and by rendering the conviction of the guilty more and more a matter of difficulty. Then, again, under such a Draconian system, the awful contingency of taking away innocent lives by judicial mistakes was by no means of unfrequent occurrence. Harrowing instances of such cruel miscarriages of justice, from time to time, roused Mr. Barry to an intensity and permanence of exertion, which only terminated with his life. But meanwhile he had assaulted successively one capital enactment after another, until, at the period of his death in 1864, he had the satisfaction of knowing that, virtually, only one crime (certainly the most awful of all) remained punishable with the hateful rope of the hangman. Mr. Barry worked much in the back-ground, yet not the less effectively. Many a public meeting, many an influential deputation to the Home Office, many a petition, and many a parliamentary motion, were initiated by his unseen action. Others better known to the public, and more influential in position, appeared to be the moving powers; but in reality the mainspring of the work was the quiet, unostentatious Mr. Barry; and, knowing the extensive acquaintance and influence of his friend Bedford, he often enlisted his sympathies in efforts to obtain reprieves for condemned criminals, especially during the dark days of the Regency, and of George IV., when neither the Sovereign nor the

Home Office were characterized by the clemency and carefulness which are, happily, their present features. Then, too, the most urgent haste and energy were requisite whenever such efforts were to be made, as execution followed sentence in eight-and-forty hours. No rapid post, or silent, instantaneous telegraph, aided or secured the work of mercy then, as now. Tiresome and continuous journeys by cab and coach were necessarily involved in any effort thus to interpose between the hangman and his victim. Yet, in various cases of this description, Barry and Bedford achieved success; but the latter was rather an occasional auxiliary than the permanent agent in this particular sphere of philanthropy. But, to the last, Mr. Bedford was ever willing to help his friend Barry and his cause. He became a member of his first Anti-Capital Punishment Society, subscribed repeatedly to its funds, attended its committees, and long after withdrawing from active participation in its affairs, watched its movements with lively interest and good wishes. About ten years ago he and Mr. Barry collected from their acquaintances several hundred pounds for the purpose of publishing and widely circulating the very interesting essay of Mr. Commissioner Phillips, entitled, "Vacation Thoughts on Capital Punishment." Some of the striking cases narrated in this work were furnished by Mr. Barry. During the last years of Mr. Bedford's life he frequently sent, through the post or otherwise, copies of "Vacation Thoughts" to persons likely to be influenced by its perusal. The last conversation the writer enjoyed in his company, on a fine sunny autumn afternoon, a few weeks before his death, Mr. Bedford entered afresh with animated



interest into the details of his former labours of mercy in connection with efforts to save unfortunate criminals from the gallows. His labours (like Mr. Barry's) in this direction were actuated by no mere sentimental philanthropy or morbid sympathy for the criminal as such; but, on the contrary, he had long been convinced that a special mischief of capital punishment consists in its *generally* calling forth popular sympathy for the criminal, *rather* than for the victim, in its rendering the chances of escape for the really guilty increasingly and deplorably frequent, and especially in its visiting with the most awful of inflictions (an irrevocable and irreparable death) those wretched beings who, even when clearly proved guilty, are, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, themselves the victims of parental neglect and vice, of utterly neglected and perverted education, of withering poverty, and of all but irresistible temptations. To restrain such even permanently, if necessary, may be most right and proper, with a view to securing society from further outrage, and at the same time to make them amends for past neglect by future instruction and care; but to punish such to the very uttermost by an ignominious death, is inequitable and cruel.

One of the last occasions on which Mr. Bedford left his residence, was to pay a visit to the death-bed of his dear friend Barry. He was himself very weak, and the weather was inclement, yet he could not forbear a parting interview with the veteran sharer in his philanthropic labours of so many bygone years. So he went, and once more communed with one of his oldest friends, one of the few who remained of the once vigorous and animated band of

Christian labourers in all the good efforts of their past generation. Their mutual friend Allen had died in 1843, Fowell Buxton and Mrs. Fry in 1845, Joseph John Gurney in 1847; still later good William Forster and Samuel Gurney had gone to join the bright circle of the glorified ones; and now two old men of the few remaining members of the once numerous band of kindred-souled associates were taking their final leave. Solemnly but hopefully and not gloomily these also parted, and in a few days all that was mortal of the once vigorous and warm-hearted Barry was quietly consigned to its last resting-place in a peaceful, sunny little cemetery on Winchmore Hill, surrounded by rural beauty and repose, though distant but a few miles from the bustling Metropolis, where the deceased had so industriously passed his life.

A third intimate friend of Mr. Bedford during a long course of years was the late Mr. John Kitching of Stamford Hill. He was very useful in rendering steadily sustained and ever punctual attention to the purely business portion of the philanthropic efforts of Mr. Bedford and others. While the latter were planning their schemes of mercy or paying visits of sympathy, Mr. Kitching would keep a vigilant eye on the regulation and state of the requisite pecuniary funds; if institutions for useful and beneficent objects were being built, he was the man to come day after day and superintend the workmen and tradesmen engaged. Nothing escaped his sharp, shrewd eye. Any one intending to take undue advantage of the arrangements or interests committed to the management of this gentleman had need possess extraordinary powers. Mr Kitching was originally a draper in Whitechapel, and,

finding that business not a sufficiently ample sphere for his capacities, engaged extensively in underwriting, and acquired a comfortable fortune. In early and middle life his mental vigour and activity communicated itself habitually to his body ; so that when moving along the streets he was "always on the run," to use the expression of a venerable man who retains a lively remembrance of his sprightly movements at that period. In common with his friend Bedford he possessed a keen appreciation of the ludicrous ; and his twinkling eyes and constantly recurring chuckles of good humour indicated the pleasant terms on which he stood with all persons and circumstances. Like Mr Bedford, too, his was the pen of a ready writer. His business talents were abundantly called into operation, after his retirement from city life, by the numerous executorships and trusts which devolved upon him ; and his attention to these matters was most regular and efficient. He was a clever correspondent ; and his penmanship, even at the end of his long life, was distinguished by neatness and elegance. His old friend Bedford repeatedly came to see him during his last illness, and finally attended his funeral, in the same year in which occurred the deaths of Barry and of himself.

Besides his personal communications with his friends, Mr Bedford kept up a peculiarly extensive correspondence, especially with the junior portion of his acquaintance. He made this means of intercourse habitually subservient to his kind and sympathizing interest in those with whom he had been brought into contact, and his letters were highly valued by their recipients. Mr. Bedford's religious views were, in various respects, peculiarly broad and

liberal, and his sympathies extended to persons of all denominations and parties. In partisan politics he took scarcely any active share. His views, as expressed, appeared to be of a moderate, Liberal-Conservative character. Yet he was not indifferent to the course of home and foreign events, but every morning perused with punctual diligence the *Times* newspaper, especially giving attention to the leading articles and parliamentary debates. His sympathy with universal humanity was too broad to run exclusively in any single channel; and he could always admit, as the old Roman did, that nothing affecting mankind in general could be uninteresting to himself in particular.

Whilst we have thus alluded to Mr. Bedford's numerous and abiding excellent traits of character, we do not wish to convey the idea that he differed from other men in being without faults and weaknesses. Decidedly not. He had his due share of the irritability, the vanity, the exclusiveness, and at times even somewhat of the obstinacy and uncharitableness, which more or less belong to all. Yet the good in him much preponderated; and it was evident that, however strong might be the remaining vitality at times of fallen human nature in him, yet the power of Divine grace was generally and characteristically in the ascendant throughout his life. Thus it was, too, at the end; and "the end crowns all."

CHAPTER V.

MR. BEDFORD'S ANTI-CAPITAL PUNISHMENT EFFORTS—HEAVER'S CASE—PARTICULAR PROVIDENCES—AN INCIDENT AT RAMSGATE—MR. BEDFORD AND JOHN TAWELL.

MR. BEDFORD'S ANTI-CAPITAL PUNISHMENT EFFORTS.

Having already mentioned Mr. Bedford's frequent efforts to obtain a remission or prevention of the capital sentence in cases where probable innocence, or strongly extenuating circumstances, specially called for such exertions, it may be interesting to the reader to have a few details illustrative of the nature of such labours of mercy.

We believe that one of the first cases, if not the very first, which particularly interested Mr. Bedford's sympathies in this direction, was a remarkable one which occurred near his native village of Old Sampford, in Essex. A woman, named Hitchin, was one night robbed by two men in the disguise of chimney-sweepers. On information being given to the village clergyman, he exerted himself to discover the perpetrators of the deed, and had a hue and cry raised throughout the surrounding districts. By these efforts two chimney-sweepers were found at Linton, arrested, committed to Chelmsford gaol, and tried at the ensuing Assizes. One of them was executed, and the other sent to the hulks.

A few years after this, some persons being in confinement for housebreaking, one of them confessed that he,

aided by another man, who was in a situation in the Tower of London, had committed the robbery on the woman for which the poor chimney-sweeper had been executed. An officer of justice was forthwith despatched to the Tower, where he apprehended the other person implicated in the affair. The latter stated that he was satisfied at being taken into custody, as his life had been rendered miserable ever since the death of the poor innocent chimney-sweeper.

The woman Hitchin had sworn to the persons of the chimney-sweepers, merely from the circumstance of the real perpetrators of the robbery having disguised themselves by assuming that character.

Heaver's Case.

Amongst the most active of Mr. Bedford's coadjutors in the beneficent labours at Spitalfields, about the year 1815, was a young man named Thomas Heaver. He was a member of the committee of the Society for the Reformation of Juvenile Delinquents, and was one of the witnesses called to give evidence before Mr. Brougham's Parliamentary Committee on the education of the metropolitan poor. Amongst other statements made by him on that occasion, he said that during the past twelve months he had examined individually about one hundred juvenile delinquents in prison and a considerable number out of prison. Notwithstanding all his experience of crime and its painful results, he shortly committed, under aggravated circumstances, an offence which endangered the lives of two innocent boys and his own.

We will copy Mr. Bedford's account as related to Mr.

Smithies, together with some additions which his repeated narratives of this and other cases, at various times, has enabled us to supply :—

“ I was one day returning from Gloucestershire by coach, and as we drove through the Old Bailey I saw a body suspended from the gallows at Newgate. It proved to be that of a young man named Bradford, who had that morning been executed for forgery. I was of course very much shocked. Shortly after reaching my house in Steward Street the door bell was rung violently, and some one was admitted and shown into the parlour. On going thither to see who it was, I found Heaver, who had laid himself down on the table and was sobbing aloud in the greatest excitement imaginable. When he became able to speak coherently, I ascertained from him that in his benevolent visits to Newgate he had become acquainted with the forger Bradford, and had been induced to sit up with him in the condemned cell during the last night, and then accompanied him to the foot of the gallows. He had just come from the fatal scene and was in this state of agitation in consequence. In a short time he became more composed, yet his distress and agony of mind were very great.

“ I had first become acquainted with this young man as a frequent visitor to our schools at Spitalfields ; and his conduct, so far as I knew, was most unblameable and unexceptionable at that time. But subsequently a change appeared to be coming over him. He became a companion of gay associates, and, in particular, became intimate with some officers in the army, who led him into expensive habits. And, sad to relate, although he had witnessed

the execution of a young man, of nearly his own age, for forgery, he himself, in about twelve months after that striking event, committed a forgery of the worst character, and merely to meet his expensive habits.

"I learned that he had drawn a bill, at two months after date, for £36, upon a certain name, on a blank piece of paper. He then went to a youth, a school lad, and said, 'You write a better hand than I do; will you copy this for me?' at the same time handing the youth a stamped sheet on which to copy the bill. The lad accordingly copied it, and the signature likewise. Heaven then went to another lad, and got him, in a similar manner, to forge the acceptance.

"Happily I became acquainted with the matter, and forthwith sent for the father of one of the youths, and told him about it. I then went to Heaven's lodgings. It was after nine o'clock in the evening, and I found that he had gone out. However I desired the servant to bring in the candles, as I should wait till his return. About midnight the front door was opened by a latch-key, and presently the young man entered the room where I was sitting. When he saw me he looked astounded, and turned pale. Now, although I did not as yet know the amount of the bill or the details of the circumstances of the forgery, I at once accosted him with the words, 'Heaven, I want that bill.' 'What bill?' said he. I replied, 'Do not attempt to deceive me. If thou dost, thou art my prisoner.' He then took out a letter from his pocket, containing the bill, and was about to destroy it. 'Stop,' said I; 'if thee tears it up, so as to prevent my seeing the document, I tell thee thou art my prisoner!'

"I had no warrant, but I meant to have called in the police at once, let the consequences be what they might, and to have had the case investigated before the magistrates at Worship Street. For I was not going to let those two youths, that were innocent of any real crime, be arrested for a capital offence.

"Well, Heaven threw down a bill on the table. It was the very document I was in search of. I put it in my pocket, looked at him sternly, and said, 'Heaven! thou art a villain!' I then turned round and went out of the house.

"I saw no more of him except once, shortly after this occurrence, at a party at Crawford's. I would have nothing to say to him there, and gave to some of the company my reasons for so acting. He soon left the country, and went to South America. I have never heard anything of him since. But it was a most striking instance of the inefficacy of capital punishment to deter from the commission of crime. Here was a young man who could attend a forger to the foot of the gallows, see him executed, and feel as he had felt on the occasion. And yet it had not sufficient effect to deter him from soon afterwards committing the very same offence!"

The efforts which were made by Sir Samuel Romilly, about the year 1810, to procure the removal of the death-penalty from one or two very minor offences, such as stealing from bleaching grounds, although partially successful, were yet attended by such vigorous and powerful opposition in Parliament, and were so apathetically regarded by the public, that there was not sufficient encouragement to pursue the agitation of criminal law

reform at that period. About ten years elapsed, and some fresh efforts were made in the same direction. In the year 1819 Mr. Bedford united with a number of his associates in petitioning Parliament for an amelioration of the criminal code, but it does not appear that any definite parliamentary result followed this application.

In 1820 the first regular anti-capital punishment association was instituted. It consisted of Dr. Lushington, Messrs. Thomas Fowell Buxton, William Allen, Basil Montague, the three Forsters, Mr. Bedford, and a few others. The place of meeting was at Allen and Barry's in Plough Court, Lombard Street. But it was soon found that public opinion was still too indifferent to the question to afford much hope of success; and the efforts of the committee appear to have gradually lapsed.

Nearly another decade passed by. But in 1829 an execution for forgery took place under very painful circumstances, which roused the most energetic action of Allen, Barry, Bedford, and their friends. Again did their talented and influential coadjutors in former good efforts, Dr. Lushington, Messrs. Crawford, Montague, and others, unite with them. Fowell Buxton and Barry, however, girded themselves in particular to the work with an energy and sustained determination which would brook no further delay or discouragement. Year after year they maintained a foremost position, in every possible way, in efforts to abolish the death penalty; and, year after year, they were successful. Their first great exertion was, in 1830, to obtain the signatures of about a thousand bankers in all parts of the kingdom, to a petition to Parliament against the retention of capital punishment for forgery.

In this work they were aided by others, especially by Mr. Bedford, and a Devonshire gentleman named Sparkes, of Exeter, himself a banker, who canvassed the West of England energetically to obtain the signatures of his brother bankers. But the work of Barry at this juncture was herculean. The writer has listened with deep interest to his narration of how for day after day, "from morn till dewy eve," and far into the night, he wrote and wrote and wrote, canvassed, visited, petitioned, and wrote again, to compel the attention of Parliament and people to the horrible evil of taking away human life (and, at times, utterly innocent life) on comparatively trivial charges. For nearly four months during one Parliamentary session, at this period of his labours, Barry scarcely ever retired to his bed-chamber till two or three o'clock in the early morning. His expenses for cabs to and from the House of Commons and about town on anti-capital punishment errands during the same few months amounted to scores of pounds. A considerable part of the large pecuniary outlay involved in the various departments of his labours was borne by himself, although many of his associates liberally contributed from time to time. The Banker's Petition did not procure the immediate formal removal of the death penalty for forgery, but it had the effect of preventing the Government from again putting the capital penalty in force for that crime. The execution in 1829, which had called forth such strenuous exertions, was the last one for forgery.

Mr. Bedford, seeing that the anti-capital punishment movement had now gathered such a decided and encouraging impetus, and that it was so ably led by his friends,

Barry, Buxton, and Lushington, and eventually further promoted by the powerful co-operation of Sir Fitzroy Kelly, Mr. William Ewart, and others, was content to leave to them the active management of the cause. But, as we have already stated, he continued to take a lively interest in the question to the end of his life; and when, from time to time, he could render it service of a direct or indirect nature, it afforded him pleasure so to do. And happily he lived to see those efforts continuously successful for thirty years, notwithstanding much opposition and many delays. In the last year of his life, he was much interested in hearing of the appointment of a Royal Commission, to inquire whether the punishment of death for murder shall be either absolutely abolished, or, at least, further restricted and regulated.

PARTICULAR PROVIDENCES.

Any sketch of Mr. Bedford would be exceedingly incomplete if no reference were made to a trait which was in a special degree characteristic of him—his very strong and constant belief in what is sometimes termed the doctrine of particular providences. In common with many other good men, he believed that, collaterally with the general administration of human affairs by an overruling Providence, there is also, very occasionally, granted by Him a special and perceptible manifestation of His will and favour, for the guidance and encouragement of the faithful, in addition to the strengthening energies of the Holy Spirit and the sacred and comprehensive precepts of the inspired Scriptures. Whilst it is evident that a system, chiefly

consisting of signs and impulses, would, in itself, be inconsistent with the divine declaration, that "we walk by faith and *not* by sight," or by what is equivalent to sight, and that we are treated as intelligent creatures rather than as instinct-driven animals; yet it is also manifest that the Holy Scriptures do recognize interpositions, of exceptional occurrence, yet for definite and wise objects. Thus, the Apostle Paul and his companion Silas, proceeded in a regular and systematic manner in their gospel labours through Syria, Cilicia, Phrygia, and Galatia, and "es-sayed to go into Bithynia," in pursuance of their plans previously agreed on at Antioch, "but the Spirit suffered them not." This indicates at once the actuality and the nature of special providences, and that, whilst occasionally given, they are by no means the rule or to be expected in ordinary cases, but, if manifested, are to receive obedience so far as understood, and as in accordance with reason and the Holy Scriptures.

Mr. Bedford, in recognizing the possibility of such particular intimations, yet in connection with them, exercised a deliberate and judicious reflection as to their harmony with the external circumstances of each particular case. And he was careful not to act on any presumed providential impulse, if opposed to Scripture and common sense. Some good men have made grievous and disappointing blunders through neglecting this precaution, and have mistaken their own fancies for preternatural intimations. But Mr. Bedford acted judiciously, and as one who remembered that God's precious gift of reason is never bestowed to be ignored, and that everything of the nature of true providential guidance will be in harmony both with sound

reason and with the revealed words of God in the Holy Scriptures, as the great and testing rule of faith and practice.

From numerous instances of what Mr. Bedford regarded as special providential manifestations, and which he often related to his friends, we may extract the following as one or two examples :—

An Incident at Ramsgate.

One summer, Mr. Bedford and two of his nephews were staying for a fortnight at Ramsgate, enjoying the fine weather and the sea breezes. They had nearly spent their allotted term of holiday, which would expire on the Monday ensuing. But on the morning of the preceding Saturday Mr. Bedford woke very early, with a strong impression on his mind that he must return that day to London. Accordingly he rose at once, and, going to the bedroom of each of his nephews, informed them that he should have occasion to proceed to the city that morning. They at once ordered an early breakfast, settled accounts, and all went on board the first packet for the Metropolis.

Mr. Bedford did not, however, know the particular object for his return, beyond the impulse of a strong and clear impression that it was his duty to do so.

On arriving at his house in Steward Street, Spitalfields, he found everything going on right; and the remainder of the day passed off quietly, as usual, and with no special occurrence whatever. He now began to feel suspicious that he had acted under a mistaken impression. Next day, Sunday, he attended worship as usual; both forenoon

and afternoon passed, and still nothing particular took place. He now feared strongly that a delusion had actuated him.

But in the evening, whilst sitting at the supper-table with two acquaintances, the door-bell rung violently, and a sudden conviction came into Mr. Bedford's mind that he was about to learn the cause of his impression at Ramsgate. He rose from table, leaving his friends to themselves, and went to meet his visitor in a private apartment. A tall young man, pale and agitated, entered and threw himself on a sofa. He was greatly excited, but presently communicated to Mr. Bedford the information that a very near relative had just left his home and family under most painful circumstances, and with the intention of totally deserting them and at once going off to America. He besought Mr. Bedford to endeavour, by his personal influence, to prevent the accomplishment of this ruinous and desolating resolve.

After going into the particulars of the case more fully, and ascertaining the most probable means of effecting the desired object, Mr. Bedford returned to his friends in the other room, and informed them that circumstances of urgent necessity compelled him to leave them immediately. He and the young man accordingly hurried off together to obtain an interview with another relative of the fugitive. They were able to make arrangements with this person, of such a nature as to preclude the accomplishment of the intended flight to America. The delinquent relative was persuaded to remain in England, and became penitent for what had happened, and eventually peace was restored to his family. Thus the sudden and unexpected impression

made on Mr. Bedford's mind at Ramsgate was entirely justified and confirmed by its results, the appropriate test of the nature of such impulses. It is worthy of observation that these special interpositions of Providence generally appear unexpectedly, and as things not to be looked for, or waited for, to the interruption of ordinary life and its reasonable arrangements, but as afforded merely on exceptional occasions, and by a higher wisdom than any in our possession for daily use.

Mr. Bedford and John Tawell.

When Mr. Bedford's active friend Kitching kept a draper's shop in Whitechapel, he took into his employ as porter a young man named Tawell, who made himself very useful, and by his diligence and complaisance commended himself to the very favourable notice of both Mr. Kitching and his friends, and amongst others of Mr. Bedford. Yet there was always a want of openness and straightforwardness about him which, in some degree, detracted from the satisfaction felt at his general conduct. But by his industry and abilities he soon raised himself out of his very subordinate situation to one of a much more responsible and remunerative nature; and as he rose in position he assumed a decided religious profession, and was particularly attentive to an observance of the various sartorial and verbal minutiae of outward form which seemed likely to evince the precision and thoroughness of his sectarian zeal.

Yet he was not so successful as he could wish in conveying an impression of his piety and sincerity.

Mr. Bedford, in particular, became dissatisfied with his

professions, and at length felt strongly that there was something very wrong underneath all the specious demeanour of Tawell. So deep and intense did this feeling become, that at length Mr. Bedford was impressed with an almost irresistible impulse to go and inform Tawell that he believed (though without any outward information or particular evidence) that the latter had committed some criminal action which would bring him to the gallows. This seemed an extraordinary message to convey to an apparently benevolent and religious person, and Mr. Bedford deliberated very seriously and maturely before he could resolve to act on such a strange impression. But the more he turned it over in his mind, the more he felt convinced that it proceeded from a higher and superior source than any fancies or imaginations of his own; and at length he resolved to act upon it, and set off towards Tawell's residence. As he proceeded thither along the City Road, he again hesitated as to the correctness of his impression; and, after he had gone considerably beyond the turnpike-bar at St. Luke's, he felt so reluctant to deliver his message that he turned back again. But when he reached the bar a second time, he became so uneasy that once more he resolved to yield compliance to the strong impulse felt; and he accordingly proceeded, without further delay, to the house. There he found Tawell and his wife, who received him pleasantly as on a friendly call; but he intimated to the husband that the object of the visit was of a very private nature, and designed for himself alone, and therefore requested that Mrs. Tawell might withdraw. When thus left alone together, Mr. Bedford proceeded to address Tawell in a

very serious and impressive manner, and finally communicated his mysterious, but very deep impression, that his auditor had so far been recreant to all his outward professions of religion, as to commit a crime which, if discovered, would subject him to the extreme penalty of the laws of his country. Tawell listened, with astonishment and awe, to this totally unexpected announcement; for the time he was much affected, and at length acknowledged to his visitor that it was quite true that he had perpetrated such an offence as he was now charged with; but, he added, that it was not as yet too late to prevent the final completion and consequences of the crime. He had at that very time in his possession notes forged by himself, but not yet passed. It may well be imagined that such an interview, with its revelations, was not one to be ever forgotten by either of the parties concerned.

Yet, notwithstanding this most striking and remarkable warning, the infatuated Tawell, at a subsequent period of his life, again yielded to the same temptation, and was convicted and transported for forging bank bills by means of ingeniously engraved plates. He was now sent to Australia, where he conducted himself with apparently exemplary diligence and morality, and, after a few years, obtained his liberty in the colony of New South Wales. His talents and industry soon enabled him to establish a business in Sydney, where he amassed a considerable sum of money, and was looked upon as one of the most thriving and respectable men in the place.

Here again he successfully endeavoured to call to his aid the advantages of a high religious profession. He entered with active interest into missionary and philan-

thropic projects, built a chapel for a small body of Quakers in the colony, and presented it to them as a gift indicating his hearty good wishes for their spiritual interests. Whenever any travelling preachers visited Sydney, Tawell was most happy to escort them about and to make the necessary arrangements for facilitating and completing their services. Here, also, he maintained a patriarchal style of dress and phraseology, which might stamp him in the eyes of many as a self-denying and exemplary person.

Having amassed a competency in Australia, he at length returned to England to enjoy it. His old friends were pleased to see his apparently penitent and satisfactory condition; and on his part he was happy to receive the kind notices of these good and benevolent men. He retained a special respect for Mr. Bedford, and so highly valued his acquaintance, that he took a residence at Southend, Croydon, on purpose to be near the venerable man who had in former years been so faithful and remarkable a monitor to him. He did not, however, remain very long at Croydon, but removed further into the country. His subsequent history is but too notorious. Although married, and still assuming a high religious profession, this wretched man formed a criminal connection; and, fearing the consequences of exposure and disgrace, poisoned the victim of his passions, hoping, by his skill in the preparation of the fatal drugs, to avoid detection: but he was mistaken. The stern hand of long-eluded justice grasped him. And it is well known how his arrest was partially the result of the first application of the then recently discovered electric telegraph to such a service.

As the guilty man was being whirled along in apparent security to the Great Western Terminus at Paddington, there was flashing through the silent wires outside his carriage windows, the fatal message which was so soon to consign him to the prison and the gallows.

Before his execution, his old friend Mr. Bedford once more visited him, and had a very solemn and affecting interview in the prison with this extraordinary and misguided man.

It would appear that, notwithstanding Tawell's gross hypocrisy, so long and successfully assumed, there were better moments in his life, at various periods, when he was awakened to earnest desires and resolutions of amendment. But each time he again yielded to the influences of passion and temptation, and finally beyond recall.

Yet almost at the last, and just before the perpetration of the act for which he forfeited his life, he received a warning of a nature similarly remarkable to that which Mr. Bedford had been the means of communicating to him before on the occasion of his first forgery.

About the period of his committing the murder just alluded to, Tawell and his wife one Sunday attended, as usual, a Quakers' meeting. A preacher from Yorkshire, a total stranger to Tawell's circumstances, was present that morning, and, after the usual preliminary silent devotions, he rose and delivered an address of extraordinary earnestness and solemnity. He stated that a feeling had taken possession of his mind on that occasion for which he could not account, except on the supposition that there was some one present who was contemplating an act of extreme wickedness and atrocity. And then, proceed-

ing in his discourse, he expressed his belief that if his warning voice, now raised, were not heeded, the unknown individual addressed would never again receive a similar offer of mercy and recall. And the preacher then concluded his address with the deepest solemnity of feeling pervading his audience. The writer has repeatedly heard this striking circumstance narrated, and has been informed that, after leaving the chapel, Tawell's wife said to him, "John, what a remarkable sermon that was. Why, one would think we had a murderer amongst us!"

And so it too truly proved to have been. From beginning to end, Tawell's career was a striking example of the infatuation and peril of neglecting the solemn warnings of providential interposition, and of good and experienced advisers.



CHAPTER VI.

PROVIDENCES IN TRAVEL—EDWARD ALEXANDER AND THREE GENTLEMEN ON LIMERICK BRIDGE—MR. BEDFORD AND THE MISSIONARY DANIEL WHEELER—MR. BEDFORD AND HIS FRIEND SHILLITOE.

Providences in Travel.

As an instance of what Mr. Bedford regarded as a manifestation of providential guidance in comparatively trivial matters, the writer may mention an incident related to him as such.

Whilst travelling in Germany in 1845 with an American preacher, a Mr. Hoag, Mr. Bedford wrote to an acquaintance, named Mundig, to meet them at Elberfeld, and act as their guide and interpreter. Mundig immediately complied with the request of his friends, and proceeded about a hundred miles to Elberfeld to await their arrival. For two days he met each train at the railway station, but the English visitors did not appear. He now concluded that there must have been either a mistake or an alteration in their plans, and returned to his hotel, intending to leave Elberfeld the next day. But that night Messrs. Bedford and Hoag arrived, and finding no one waiting for them at the station, and neither of them being able to speak German, they felt in considerable difficulty as to their procedure. They saw the various vehicles drive away, and at last got into the only remaining one, an

omnibus, not knowing whither it would take them. But it so happened that it stopped at the very hotel where their friend Mundig was lodging; and here they found him, but only waiting for the following morning to depart to his distant home. Of course on seeing his friends he again resolved to stay with them; but had they not been thrown in his way in this peculiar manner, and at that particular time, they would have been left alone, and put to much inconvenience in consequence.

They had come to Elberfeld chiefly to visit a body of German Catholic Christians, of whom Mr. Bedford had heard much in England, and in whom he felt a special interest, and had now brought his American friend to preach to them. Accompanied by Mundig as interpreter, they first set off to have an interview, if possible, with one of the leaders of this sect, named Huckleman; but the three being strangers in Elberfeld they did not know where he resided. So, whilst searching for him, Mundig called out to a boy in the street, and inquired if he knew where a person named Huckleman lived. Just as he had uttered the words, a gentleman, then passing by, stopped and said, "Were you inquiring for a person named Huckleman? That is my own name." The party then found that this was a brother of the individual they were in search of, and who, being a physician, was then going his morning rounds to visit his patients. He appointed ten o'clock for them to call at his house. Thither they went, and were introduced to his brother as a principal member of the sect of German Catholic Christians. Mr. Bedford then introduced to the latter his American friend, stating the object of his visit to Elberfeld, and the nature

of his engagements as a preacher. Huckleman listened attentively, and then replied, "Really this is very remarkable; you seem sent to us just at the very time when we need such a visit." The two brothers then undertook to convene the meeting desired, which was held the same evening. A large number of persons came together, and a very satisfactory and interesting service it proved to be, the American gentleman addressing the assembly for about two hours in an impressive manner.

Mr. Bedford regarded the various incidents which unexpectedly facilitated the accomplishment of his wishes at Elberfeld, as so many links in a chain of minute providences; and it would appear that this was a right conclusion. But it is also to be observed that these facilitations of their beneficent labours were not afforded in such a manner as in the slightest degree to dispense with the efforts and arrangements of due diligence and common sense. Men are governed by God's arrangements through fixed *laws*, unvarying and universal in their application. Special providences are never meant to contravene these laws, or to dispense with them, but only, and very occasionally, to supplement and confirm them.

Our Saviour's life on earth was one long proclamation of the sanctity of the fixed general laws of God's providence. He never wrought a miracle, or set aside natural laws for His personal convenience, but permitted their full operation on Himself, even unto death. And this was similarly the case with the Apostles.

And where well meaning, but misguided Christians, have sought to dispense with God's laws of reason and intelligent effort, and to substitute a system of signs and

passive impulses, the results have been humiliating and disappointing. This was a characteristic failing of one of Mr. Bedford's philanthropic friends, who often waited for peculiar intimations in business and social arrangements, for which God had already given him the necessary talent and ability. But through neglecting the latter he blundered often and sadly; and events proved that, as one of his active coadjutors remarked to the writer, "He was always, in such cases, mistaken; always wrong."

Edward Alexander and three gentlemen on Limerick Bridge.

In connection with this favourite topic of Mr. Bedford, the occurrence of special providences, we may here introduce a striking incident which we heard related in his presence, and which occurred to one of his friends, the late Mr. Edward Alexander, of Limerick.

One day this gentleman was pensively crossing the long bridge over the Shannon, at Limerick, and was slowly walking along with his hands behind his back, after his usual somewhat peculiar manner. As he came on he passed three gentleman, who were talking together whilst leaning over the bridge-parapet, and resting on it with crossed arms. Mr. Alexander at once felt a strong impression that he ought to accost one of these, and request him to desist from the commission of some deed he was about to do. But seriously hesitating as to the propriety of so immediately acting on such an impulse, he slowly continued his course, especially as he did not know which gentleman of the three was to be the object of his com-

munication. When he reached the toll-house at the bridge-end, he felt so uneasy at non-compliance with the impression, that he walked back again to the three, and commenced a conversation with them by remarking, "I suppose you are admiring the beauty of the Shannon?" One of them replied in the affirmative, and immediately left his companions. Presently another walked away, and Mr. Alexander now felt that the remaining gentleman must be the object of his warning, and accordingly declared to him, in a somewhat stern manner, that if he accomplished an action he was then contemplating, he would ruin himself. He then immediately left the gentleman, and proceeded on his way again.

The next day he was standing in one of the streets of Limerick, in front of an hotel, and just as the western coach came up, and stopped there. A person descended from it, and recognizing him, said, "I have to thank you, sir; for, if I had done what I was meditating yesterday, I should have ruined myself." It was the gentleman he had addressed on the bridge, and who now shook him cordially by the hand, and presently went away again. Mr. Alexander never ascertained the details of the case.

Mr. Bedford and the missionary Daniel Wheeler.

It was chiefly in connection with, and in aid of, religious and beneficent undertakings, that Mr. Bedford looked for manifestations of special providences as a help in addition to, and distinct from, the assistance of the Holy Spirit, which consists in strengthening for moral and religious duties and in impressing on the mind the declarations of Holy Scripture respecting God's love to us in His Son.

And particularly in the organization of missionary efforts and plans, did Mr. Bedford rely on such providential intimations. The writer has heard him repeatedly allude to such indications in connection with the arrangements for the extensive missionary journeys of Daniel Wheeler, a gentleman who relinquished a lucrative post, held under the Emperor of Russia, in order to devote himself for many years to the promulgation of the Gospel in Australia, Tasmania, the northern and southern Pacific Islands, and the continent of America.

Mr. Wheeler's projected religious campaign was of such magnitude that great difficulty and delay ensued in carrying it into effect. First one plan of accomplishment was proposed and then another, and each in turn relinquished. Then it was suggested that he should go out in a whaling vessel, but this also was attended with objection. At length, getting weary of discouragements and delays, Mr. Wheeler had recourse to his friend Bedford, and after recounting the obstacles which had arisen, and the eagerness he felt to proceed to the desired service, he exclaimed, "I don't care if I go in a fishing boat, so that I go at all."

Mr. Bedford at once took the matter up actively, and invited Wheeler to dine with him in Steward Street. Then they went down to the docks together, and looked about amongst the shipping for a vessel likely to suit the purpose. They boarded first one and then another. At length they came upon the deck of a small vessel, of 101 tons, named the *Henry Freeling*. Here the two sat down in silent devotion for about ten minutes; then, feeling an intimation of providential sanction, Mr. Bedford said to his companion, "Daniel, I think this will do!"

the latter replied, "I think so too." Mr. Bedford then commissioned a trustworthy person to examine the vessel, and report on her qualities, condition, and requirements. The report was a favourable one. It was calculated that £2000 would be sufficient for her purchase and outfit, and this sum was accordingly obtained by subscription.

The selection of the little *Henry Freeling*, made in this peculiar manner, resulted most satisfactorily. She bore Mr. Wheeler about for scores of thousands of miles through the oceans of the southern and the western hemispheres, passed lightly and safely amid dangerous archipelagoes and extensive regions of coral reef, and safely weathered tremendous storms, which repeatedly threatened to overwhelm her and her inmates in immediate and utter destruction. And on her return from those long and varied voyages she was still in such good condition as to be sold for about two-thirds of her original cost.

Being thus provided with a vessel suitable for calling from island to island, at his pleasure, Mr. Wheeler was next furnished with a captain and crew, as well as with a travelling companion, all of whom appeared judiciously selected. Finally, every equipment being now prepared, the good missionary sailed from Gravesend for his distant destination. But before getting out of the English Channel a long succession of very unfavourable weather set in, and necessitated the delay of the *Henry Freeling* for three months at the Mother Bank, Spithead. This, after all the previous hindrances, did indeed seem most trying and wearisome. But it turned out to be a clearly providential arrangement, which had a great effect on the ultimate success of the undertaking. For, in the first

place, during this long stay at the Mother Bank, Mr. Wheeler's companion was found to be of by no means the congenial sentiments and disposition essential for comfort and aid during years of arduous foreign service together. He accordingly left the vessel and returned home. His place was supplied by Mr. Wheeler's son Charles, a talented and excellent young man, who proved an invaluable blessing to his father in the course of their united mission labours.

In the next place, during this unexpected delay, it was discovered that the apparently eligible captain was very far from suitable; for, on the occasions of going ashore at Portsmouth, he was found to be an associate of immoral companions. So he was dismissed, and it became necessary to look out again for a person really qualified for so peculiar an engagement.

When these various unexpected difficulties arose, Mr. Wheeler wrote to his good friends in London, to help him with their counsel and assistance. Accordingly, one evening about eight o'clock Mr. Bedford and three other gentlemen set out for Portsmouth. One of the number was the late Mr. Samuel Gurney. He kindly provided his own coach for the occasion; and as the party started from Lombard Street with lit lamps and four horses, a crowd assembled around, exclaiming that some country bank was on the eve of a smash, and here was a coach loaded with gold going off to the rescue. Away went the good men, and, after pleasant conversation, pulled out their night-caps, slept, and ultimately reached their friend Wheeler, but were unable immediately to provide him with another captain, instead of the one just found unsuitable.

Soon after returning to London, one of Mr. Bedford's acquaintances called upon him, and inquired if Mr. Wheeler was suited with a captain. The inquirer was not, at the time, aware of the difficulty which had just arisen. Mr. Bedford responded by another question as to the object of the inquiry. His friend answered, that he merely wished to know whether Mr. Wheeler was suited; because, if not, he himself could recommend a certain Captain Kean, an experienced seaman, well acquainted with the southern oceans, and, in other respects also, just the man. Mr. Bedford made an arrangement for Kean to call upon him. His appearance and testimonials were thoroughly satisfactory, and he was forthwith engaged to take charge of Mr. Wheeler's vessel. He proved, in the ensuing years of travel, a most excellent commander, and a worthy, serious character. He entered readily into Mr. Wheeler's plans for managing the ship on strictly Christian and temperance principles. The crew were regularly assembled in the cabin twice on Sundays for worship, the Holy Scriptures were frequently read aloud, and on Sundays all work that could practically be omitted or postponed was dispensed with.

The results of the temperance principles adopted on board the *Henry Freeling* are thus stated by Mr. Wheeler, writing from Tasmania, after a peculiarly stormy voyage of six months from Portsmouth to Hobart Town:—

“The crew had nothing but water for months together. It is a little remarkable, that although they have been sometimes wet and in wet clothes, not for a day or two, but for a week together,—when their teeth have chattered with cold, with no warm food,—the sea having put the

fires out, even below the deck ; and the water filtering through the deck on their beds below, and not a dry garment to change ; yet not a single instance of the cramp has occurred amongst them, nor the slightest appearance of the scurvy, even in those who have aforetime been afflicted with it, and still bear the marks about them ; and, with the solitary instance of one man who was forced to quit the deck for two hours during his watch, from being taken unwell, every man and boy have stood throughout the whole voyage in a remarkable manner."

The little vessel and her crew stood the southern tempests wonderfully. On one such occasion, Mr. Wheeler observes, " The poor men were lashed upon the deck with ropes, to prevent their being washed away : benumbed with cold, and at times *floating* with the vast load of water *upon the deck*—their sufferings are not easily described." Mr. Wheeler's own privations were by no means inconsiderable. But he maintained his usual cheerfulness and prayerful faith throughout. He spent nearly five years in the southern hemisphere and amongst the islands of the Pacific, and then, with scarcely any intermission, undertook two similar missionary visits to North America.

During the performance of his second American journey this faithful man received his summons from the church militant on earth to the church triumphant in heaven, and died at New York in 1840. The loss of such a life was sorrowfully regretted by many thousands of earnest Christians in various parts of the world. It may be added that all his prolonged and arduous missionary services were undertaken from the purest motives of love to God and man. He received no pecuniary remuneration, but, on the con-

trary, contributed about one hundred pounds per annum from his private property towards the expenses of his journeys, the remaining portion being subscribed (as usual) by the members of his own persuasion. The sacrifices of domestic joys and of his temporal prospects were an additional surrender at the altar of Christian devotion, and to an extent which few can fully appreciate.

We cannot help adding one more instance of the manifest providences attendant on this good man's course, described in his memoranda under date of the 22nd of June, 1834, when midway in the ocean.

At this time the *Henry Freeling* was many hundred miles southward of the Cape of Good Hope, and tossing for weeks together amid the mountain waves and violent gales of the Southern Ocean. At length the tremendous intensity and awfulness of these storms threatened inevitable destruction to the little vessel, and the condition of affairs at this crisis is thus described by Mr. Wheeler:—

“Lying-to, as yesterday, the storm still raging with unabated violence, squalls, heavy rain, and lightning through the night. The sea having risen to a fearful height, frequently inundated the deck of the vessel; and from the continual working of her whole frame, our bed-places have been unfit to sleep in, the water having found its way through numerous chinks. This morning, early, a heavy sea broke into us, bringing a larger quantity of water upon the deck than at any time before. To myself a very remarkable and striking event took place this morning. Shortly after the vessel had shipped a heavy body of water, I went up the hatchway to look round for a short interval; at that moment the seas were running in moun-

tainous succession, and I observed that some of the loftiest of the waves were very nearly prevailing against our little vessel; it seemed as if she could not much longer escape being overwhelmed by them altogether. I made no remark to anyone, but soon after we tried to get some breakfast; while so occupied, one of the men called down to inform us that there was a sight worth looking at on deck; it was a large collection of a species of whale, close to the ship. I thought I should like to see them. There were perhaps more than two hundred of these animals close to us, each about twelve feet long. When I went upon deck after breakfast they were still close to our bows, and the man at the helm said that they served as a breakwater for us; their being so was afterwards mentioned by some other person.

“At last my eyes were open to discover the protection they were affording to our little struggling vessel; they occupied a considerable portion of the surface of the sea, in the exact direction between the vessel and the wind and waves, reaching so near to us that some of them might have been struck by a harpoon. They remained constantly swimming in gentle and steady order, as if to maintain the position of a regular phalanx, and I suggested that nothing should be done to frighten them away.

“It was openly remarked by some that not one sea had broken on board us, while they occupied their useful post; and, when they at last retired, it was perceived that the waves did not rage with the same violence as before they came to our relief.

“I give this wonderful circumstance just as it occurred; and if any should be disposed to view it as a thing of

chance, *I* do not : for I believe it to be one of the great and marvellous works of the Lord God Almighty."

After being with Mr. Wheeler for nearly five years, and rendering him valuable and constant service, Captain Kean returned to London, where he again met Mr. Bedford ; to whom, in reply to his first enquiry after his health and welfare, he answered, with much emotion, " Oh, Sir, if I am not a better man than when I saw you last, I am sure I ought to be."

The writer may here remark that when, in 1860, he was in the Sandwich Islands he found that the visit of Mr. Wheeler to that part of the Pacific was still held by some there in most respectful and warmly appreciative remembrance. The lines written by the American poet Whittier, in memory of his friend Wheeler, were truly appropriate:—

"In many an isle whose coral feet
The surges of that Ocean beat,
In thy palm shadows Oahu,
And Honolulu's silver bay,
Amidst Owhyhee's hills of blue
And Taro plains of Tooboona,
Are gentle hearts which long shall be
Sad as our own at thought of thee.
For blessed by our Father's hand
Was thy deep love and tender care ;
Thy ministry and fervent prayer,
Grateful as Eschcol's clustered vine,
To Israel in a weary land."

MR. BEDFORD AND HIS FRIEND SHILLITOE.

We have had occasion to remark that Mr. Bedford was not a public preacher, but he took great interest in aiding and prompting the labours of others thus engaged, and was generally sought after for counsel and sympathy by a

large circle of labourers in the public services of religion. Further, his was one of those eminently useful careers which have been termed "seed-lives" on account of their fruitful and energizing influences on surrounding persons and circumstances. By his awakening suggestions and continuous private sympathies and encouragements, he, perhaps, called into existence more ministerial and philanthropic labour than most other individuals of his generation. There are now living various extensively engaged ministers of the Gospel and active promoters of human progress, who can trace to the private but awakening suggestions and fatherly counsels of Mr. Bedford a chief instrumental source of their religious decision and earnestness.

And many other such, who were not prompted originally by him, were yet abundantly stimulated and aided by their subsequent intercourse with him. Amongst the latter may be named the late Thomas Shillitoe, a singular but very interesting and useful character. He was one of the most active amongst the philanthropic and religious worthies of his generation. Although a man of the greatest simplicity and unaffected modesty, he often sought opportunities of laying before high dignitaries in church and state the serious responsibilities of their station. On these visits he was repeatedly accompanied by his friend Mr. Bedford, whose greater geniality and more polished manners enabled him to facilitate Shillitoe's favourable reception on such occasions. Amongst the eminent persons with whom Mr Shillitoe had interviews of this description, were King George the Third, George the Fourth (twice), William the Fourth, and Queen Adelaide,

the King and Queen of Denmark, the King of Prussia and the Crown Prince, the Emperor Alexander the First of Russia (on two occasions), the President of the United States, and numerous noblemen, as well as archbishops and bishops both of the Roman and Anglican churches. He personally visited the prisons in various parts of the world, from Sing Sing, near New York, to Spandau in Prussia and the gaols in Petersburg. The North American Indians, the slaves and their owners, were also at times the objects of his philanthropic visits.

Amongst the occasions on which he was aided and accompanied by his friend Bedford, we may mention his second interview with George the Fourth (in 1824). Shillitoe and his friend proceeded to Windsor, and stationed themselves in the Long Walk in the Park, where they waited till the king should pass by in his pony-chaise. On seeing the two Quakers evidently desirous of accosting him, and having papers in their hands, the monarch stopped the horses, and courteously gave permission to Shillitoe to present a document containing a strong and earnest protest against the lamentable desecration of the Sabbath in the king's Hanoverian dominions, which the petitioner had recently visited. Mr Shillitoe quaintly records:—"Several years having elapsed since I had had an interview with him at Brighton, and the King having lost much of that florid countenance he then had, also appearing aged and being wrapped up in a loose drab greatcoat, instead of a uniform which he wore on the former occasion, some hesitation arose in my mind lest I should be mistaken, and it should not be the king. I, therefore, looking up at him, enquired, "But is it the king?" to which he replied,

"Yes, friend; I am the king; give it to the Marquis of Conyngham;" who received it with a smile; on which the king said, "Now, you have handed it to me." Mr Shillitoe then took the opportunity of uttering a brief religious address; after listening to which, the king replied, "I thank you;" and the interview terminated.

It has been stated that, when George the Fourth was in his last illness, he expressed a wish to have "that Quaker" sent for to furnish religious consolation, but that some circumstance prevented the accomplishment of his desire.

Mr. Bedford shortly afterwards accompanied his friend to the magistrates of Lambeth and Southwark for the similar object of intreating their influence against the opening of gin-shops and tea-gardens and the publication of newspapers on Sundays.

Some years later, Mr. Bedford went with Mr. Shillitoe to the Bishop of London, who received them very pleasantly, and entered into a long and interesting conversation with them on various religious and philanthropic topics. Mr. Shillitoe particularly urged the Bishop to lend his countenance to the Temperance Societies then forming (1831) in various parts of the kingdom. Shortly afterwards the latter consented to become the President of the Temperance Association, and warmly promoted its interests.

Mr. Shillitoe was specially zealous in the promotion of temperance, both from motives of general Christian philanthropy and also from his personal experiences. He was, throughout many years of his life, subject to hypochondriacal attacks, and at times was morbidly nervous; so much so, that we have heard of his running

in haste over London Bridge lest it should fall beneath him ; and on various occasions he would imagine himself a tea-pot, for weeks together, and be fearful that contact with strangers might break him.

Indeed, he records in his published autobiography, "Twice I was confined to my bed from the sudden sight of a mouse."

When a young man he had, on account of this extreme nervousness, been ordered to use a generous diet of beef-steak, wine, and the best ale. This regimen he adopted for twenty years, but without getting rid of his malady. At a subsequent period he became worse, and had recourse to smoking and spirits. Still no improvement. Then he tried laudanum, beginning with ten drops at a dose, and gradually increasing "until I got to one hundred and eighty drops ; I left off at that quantity." It is not to be wondered at, that he now adds, "I became bilious, rheumatic, and gouty."

He was now brought to the verge of madness, from which terrible condition he was saved, just in time, by the counsels of a medical man in Hampshire, who advised him to relinquish stimulants and confine himself to a diet almost vegetarian in its nature. This was very hard work for the poor invalid, to whom, by long habit, a plentiful supply of stimulants had become, in a manner, the staff of life. He thus records the result :—

"At length, feeling satisfied of the sincerity of my friend above-mentioned, who had enforced on me the necessity of a general change, I made up my mind to seek for help from Almighty God, that I might give the recommendation a fair trial, satisfied as I was that nothing

short of His help could enable me to endure the conflict I must undergo. When I returned to my own home, favoured, as I believe I was, with that holy help that would bear me up in making the attempt, I proceeded all at once (*for I found tampering with these things would not do*), and gave up my laudanum, fermented liquors of every kind whatsoever, and my meat breakfast. My health began gradually to improve, although I felt some of the effects of the old complaint in my stomach after I had taken my dinner meal. I therefore confined myself wholly to vegetable diet, and my health has gradually improved from that time to the present. So that I am able to say, to the praise of Him who enabled me to make the sacrifice of these things, that I am *stronger* now, in my *eightieth* year, than I was *fifty years ago*, when in the habit of taking animal food, wine, strong malt liquor, and spirits and water; and my bilious, my rheumatic, and my gouty complaints, I think I may say, are no more. Nor have I, since this change, ever had an attack of that most dreadful of all maladies, hypochondria."

This testimony is very striking, especially in its clear statement of the necessity of obtaining divine help, by fervent prayer, for the ability to adopt and maintain the difficult instrumental means sometimes essential to accomplish a necessary good result. And we may here add that possibly, if Mr. Shillitoe's friend Bedford, who was at times grievously afflicted with gout, had adopted the total abstinence principles of his friend, he might have similarly got rid of his antagonist. Yet to moderation he was always a cordial friend, both by example and precept.

In 1832, Mr. Bedford again accompanied his friend

Shillitoe to Windsor, and had a very satisfactory interview with King William the Fourth in his private apartments, and without the presence of any attendants. After some pleasant general conversation, Mr. Shillitoe then solemnly expressed to the king his "earnest desires that the Almighty would be pleased to incline his heart so to walk in the ways of His requirings, that he might become a blessing to the nation over which he is permitted to reign, beseeching the Lord to incline the heart of the king to seek daily for help to be enabled to maintain the noble resolution of one formerly—'Let others do as they may, I will serve the Lord;' and then when called upon to surrender up his earthly crown, that he might be favoured to receive the crown designed for him to wear in the kingdom of heaven."

The king gave serious attention to this address, and then accepted some religious books from his visitors, and further obtained an interview for them with Queen Adelaide. To her, also, Mr. Shillitoe expressed similar good desires that the divine blessing and presence might attend her, here and hereafter. He then besought her sympathies for the tens of thousands of her poor subjects. Mr. Shillitoe, though a good man, was of but small intellectual calibre, and entertained a strong prejudice against machinery and other modern improvements, which he judged to be injurious to the national interests, and to those of the poor especially. He, therefore, entreated the Queen to discourage machine-wrought fabrics, and to give the preference to those made by hand. After he had thus expressed his views, Mr. Bedford took up the subject, and as being himself a Spitalfields silk-manufacturer, acknow-

ledged the kindness of the Queen in having adopted and specially patronised the silk of that district to the interest and advantage of its industrious inhabitants. Mr. Shillitoe records,—“The satisfaction that gleamed in the countenance of the Queen at this information was very striking. She then inquired if the poor weavers were better employed than they had been, and informed us that the silk furniture of the palace was of that manufacture.”

Mr. Shillitoe was much attached to his friend Bedford, and repeatedly made the house of the latter his home when in London. He was very active in his habits, and an excellent pedestrian. Many long journeys, in various parts of the country, were performed by him entirely on foot; and when sometimes thus pedestrianizing with coat off, bared neck, and perhaps head uncovered, he presented a somewhat strange aspect. One of his old friends mentioned to the writer that on one occasion Mrs. Shillitoe, being fearful that her husband would over-exert himself by his long walking, gave private instructions to a coachman to stop his vehicle on a certain road, along which Mr. Shillitoe had started, and to importune the latter to mount the stage. On the coachman inquiring, “But how shall I know your husband from any other man, madam?” she replied, “That if he should meet a man unlike any other man, that’s he;” and, guided by this description, the driver recognized Mr. Shillitoe on overtaking him, and conveyed to him the request of his good wife, with which he forthwith obediently complied.

Shillitoe’s means were very limited, which made it the greater sacrifice for him to leave his business and family for months and years together, and travel on prolonged missionary services without any pecuniary remuneration.

He had a clever, but frequently intemperate, person to assist him in his shop; and it was striking that, although in Shillitoe's presence at home this individual would at times "break out," to the great inconvenience of the business; yet when his employer was absent on the Lord's service, his conduct was irreproachable, and his aid most valuable.

Mr. Shillitoe died the death of a Christian in 1836. Amongst his last utterances he thus declared the faith of his life. "I feel I have nothing to depend upon but the mercies of God in Christ Jesus. I do not rely for salvation upon any merits of my own; all my own works are as filthy rags;—my faith is in the merits of Christ Jesus, and in the offering He made for us. I trust my past sins are all forgiven me;—that they have been washed away by the blood of Christ who died for my sins. It is mercy I want, and mercy I have; and notwithstanding I thus speak, I am sensible that I must not presume upon this mercy; but it is only as I endeavour, through divine assistance, to walk circumspectly that I can hold out to the end."

We may here remark that in similar manner as Mr. Bedford had for years aided and personally accompanied the religious and philanthropic efforts of his friends Wheeler and Shillitoe, so also he rendered like services to several other good men in their various efforts and journeys, and in particular to Messrs. Stephen Grellet and John Yeardley, two very active missionaries. With the former Mr. Bedford travelled as companion and assistant through Ireland and parts of Great Britain, and with the latter through parts of Germany and Norway.

CHAPTER VII.

FURTHER INSTANCES OF MR. BEDFORD'S USEFULNESS—MR.
BEDFORD'S INTEREST IN CONTINENTAL MATTERS.

FURTHER INSTANCES OF MR. BEDFORD'S USEFULNESS.

BESIDES the extensive influence usefully exerted by Mr Bedford in objects of public philanthropy, and in the assistance or suggestion of the general cause of religion at home and abroad, he was, throughout life, abundantly serviceable to private individuals, particularly to youths and young men in situations away from home. When he observed such ones giving evidence of earnest desires for good, he fostered and encouraged them in their efforts; and when he had reason to fear that they were yielding to temptations and snares, he kindly and faithfully cautioned them of the danger, both by personal interviews and by an extensive correspondence; and although himself a bachelor, Mr. Bedford took a particular interest in the matrimonial engagements and ultimate settlement in life of his young friends, and was often a welcome guest at their weddings, or would receive with much pleasure the newly-married pair on a visit at his house after their union.

It would be inappropriate to record the details of many of the instances in which Mr. Bedford manifested his fatherly kindness towards the great number of his youthful acquaintances; but the following is an example of his diligent and earnest efforts in various individual cases.

One of Mr. Bedford's friends had a son, an agreeable youth, whose conduct at home had been pleasant and satisfactory. But after being sent away to school his morals had become corrupted by a French teacher, and subsequently by another foreign master; and after leaving school his conduct grew worse, and he proceeded from one bad course to another, until his habitual companions were of the lowest and vilest description. His parents had now lost sight of him, and did not know where he was or what had become of him, and were much grieved at his desertion of home and duty. Mr. Bedford felt sorrow both on the lad's account and on that of his parents, and resolved to exert himself with a view to reclaiming the wanderer. He tried various expedients to obtain an interview with the object of his search, but for some time without success.

Thus one night Mr. Bedford waited patiently on the steps of a metropolitan theatre, where he deemed it probable he might be able to recognise and accost the young man after the amusements were terminated; but he did not meet him.

Then, having been informed that the youth had probably enlisted in a cavalry regiment, Mr. Bedford went to the Portman Street barracks, and instituted inquiries for him. He was received very courteously by the commanding officer there, and was invited to place himself in a certain position, from whence he could conveniently overlook the soldiers, and a number of them were paraded in front of him; but he did not find the young man he was in search of.

He then heard that the latter was in the habit of fre-

quenting a certain coffee-house in Fleet Street, but under an assumed name. Mr. Bedford, therefore, arranged with one of his friends to secure an interview with the young man at this place by their alternately relieving one another in maintaining a look-out for him until he should be met with, as they had ascertained that a person answering to his description really came there occasionally. The plan devised was for one of the two visitors to go to the coffee-house at eight o'clock in the morning, take breakfast and remain there till ten, when his friend would come and take the post of observation. This was carried out for about a fortnight, but without success.

Soon afterwards, Mr. Bedford was informed that the young man had obtained the names of his father's customers in London, and was collecting their payments by assuming to act as his father's agent, but, in reality, for his own purposes and further indulgence in dissipation. This compelled his relatives to think of placing the matter in the hands of the police; but they obtained from a magistrate a promise that if arrested and brought into court, the delinquent should, in the first instance, be handed over to his father's care.

But before this plan was acted on, Mr. Bedford again heard of the young man's whereabouts, and addressed a letter to him, urgently entreating an interview if only for ten minutes. At length a reply was returned, appointing an interview at the London Coffee-house on Ludgate Hill. But it so happened that at the time fixed Mr. Bedford was obliged to be in Gloucestershire; and he therefore wrote again, requesting that the young person would meet, at the previously arranged time and place, a friend whom

he had requested to represent him. This plan was acceded to; and on Mr. Bedford's return to the metropolis, he found that the young man was laid up with illness at the house of his friend, who, after the interview at Ludgate Hill, had kindly invited the youth to his own house in Bishopsgate Street, where Mr. Bedford now found him on a sick bed. The poor fellow, when he saw his good friend, was quite contrited, and wept and humbly acknowledged his errors. After a while he recovered his health, and then Mr. Bedford aided him in obtaining a berth in a ship, and he went off as a sailor. "And that is the last time," said Mr. Bedford to the writer, "that I will ever have a hand in sending a young man to sea with the idea of reforming him."

For a time the young man conducted himself creditably on board; but at length, on arriving at a sea-port, he relapsed into his old habits, and again became an abandoned and profligate character.

Notwithstanding all these circumstances, the same person was eventually, after passing through various changes, again reclaimed to the paths of sobriety and morality. He ultimately settled in Holland as a teacher, married respectably, lived worthily, and died peaceably.

In such ways as the above, Mr. Bedford was always on the look-out for opportunities of doing good. Thus, being on a tour in Switzerland, he met with a talented, agreeable young man who was leading a somewhat unsettled life. Mr. Bedford, after travelling with him for several days, became much interested in his pleasant acquaintance, and took occasion to address him in a private, sympathizing, religious appeal. These counsels

induced a decided change in his auditor, an alteration which, in after years, was most gratefully acknowledged. The gentleman thus influenced now ably occupies a very influential position of public responsibility.

Mr. Bedford often availed himself of his being on terms of intimacy with various persons of affluent means to solicit their aid and interest for the benevolent undertakings, both of a public and private nature, which had attracted his own attention. From the late Samuel Gurney, Esq., of Lombard Street, he frequently obtained munificent assistance for such objects; and, after the decease of that gentleman, his sons cordially continued their father's liberal co-operation with the philanthropic projects of his old friend Mr. Bedford, in addition to the numerous similar services already claiming their support and interest.

Mr. Bedford repeatedly took part in deputations to the Government, and to men in influential positions, for the purpose of urging efforts on behalf of general peace and progress. We have already alluded to his interviews with royalty on several occasions. A few years ago he formed one of a deputation who waited on Lord Palmerston to plead against the extravagant outlay on the national defences, and to recommend less trust in armaments and weapons, and more reliance on the protecting care of divine Providence. The minister received his pacific advisers very pleasantly, and good-humouredly replied that "We (the Government) merely wish to do what you may be in the habit of doing before you retire to bed at night;—to go round the house and see to the bolts and locks." His lordship also appealed to his visitors whether,

supposing they were out at sea in a storm, they would order the whole ship's company down to prayers.

In 1846 Mr. Bedford had similarly taken part in preparing and presenting an address to Sir Robert Peel and Lord Aberdeen on behalf of an amicable settlement of the then serious aspects of the Oregon difficulty with the United States of America.

And just before the Crimean War he was one of the promoters of the excellently-motivated deputation of Messrs. Sturge, Pease, and Charleton, to the Emperor Nicholas of Russia, on behalf of a peaceful solution of the matters in dispute, which were so soon to end in an awful conflict. Although that effort received much ridicule both at home and on the Continent (where it was characterized as "*un coup d'épée à l'eau*"), it had its origin in a deep sense of the responsibility of thoughtful and patriotic Christian men to use every practicable exertion to avert the horrors of bloodshed, and the desolating atrocities inseparable even from the most mercifully conducted warfare; and although the attempt apparently produced no efficacious result, Mr. Bedford, in common with its other promoters, never repented having given aid to its accomplishment. There is always some good influence, direct or indirect, present or ultimate, in the upraising of any honest protest on behalf of righteousness and humanity, however such protest may be overwhelmed by adverse voices.

The progress of every great work of human blessing has, for the most part, been the work and the accomplishment of small and despised minorities—of minorities sometimes of a single individual at first; but, provided such small beginnings are based on and accompanied by

the truth of the invisible God, their final success, however distant, is infallibly secure.

In 1846-7, Mr. Bedford entered, with the deepest interest, into the efforts of his philanthropic acquaintances to mitigate the miseries consequent on the Irish famine. Many thousand pounds were raised by these good men; and a chief agent in its ultimate distribution was one of Mr. Bedford's most intimate and beloved personal friends, the late Mr. William Forster, a man whose whole life was spent in the service of the divine glory and of human improvement, and who finally died, far away from his home and family, in a remote village in the state of Tennessee, whilst on a journey in America, in promotion of those philanthropic and religious objects which were the aim and employment of his life.

The anti-slavery cause in which Mr. Forster laboured actively (and the final victory of which his son and relatives have lived to see) was one of the many similar ones in which Mr. Bedford took a part. In 1825 he had become a member of a special committee for ameliorating the condition and prospects of the slaves, and, in particular, for making efforts to obtain the abolition of all slavery in the British dominions. In ten years from that date, this greatly-desired object had been accomplished, mainly through the labours of Clarkson, Wilberforce, Brougham, Buxton, Sturge, and Allen; but Mr. Bedford had heartily joined in the less public and more inconspicuous exertions needful to give success and efficiency to the operations of these great anti-slavery leaders. So thoroughly determined were some of the opponents of slavery to discourage it to the very utmost of their in-

dividual ability, that more than a few of them conscientiously abstained from sugar for a considerable period, lest they should, in the most indirect and trifling degree, give support to the accursed traffic in human bodies. Thus Mr. William Allen records, in his memoranda, that on the 1st of August, 1834 (on the occasion of the final emancipation of the slaves in the British possessions), he took tea at Mr. Bedford's house, and there, for the first time, resumed the use of sugar after more than forty years' abstinence from it.

After Mr. Bedford's removal from Spitalfields to Croydon, in 1836, he, of course, was precluded from maintaining many of his previous active labours of philanthropy in the Metropolis. But wherever his lot was cast he was sure to be a centre of usefulness.

The Friends' school at Croydon now claimed much of his attention and interest. Almost every day some of its inmates found an errand to the well-known house overlooking the Brighton Road at Southend, where, in the cheerful three-windowed drawing-room, with its acacias, geraniums, and oleanders, or in the smooth-lawned and neatly laid-out garden, Mr. Bedford's cheerful voice and pleasant countenance were usually to be met with. From the superintendent to the youngest scholar, all, at times, sought his sympathy or his society, and for all he had a kind reception.

Nor did he forget others in Croydon. The soldiers in the barracks, the children in the lanes and streets, and the labourers in the neighbourhood, were in his thoughtful remembrance from time to time.

One afternoon, at the commencement of the Crimean

war, a small party of raw young recruits (just about to be despatched to the battle-field) were passing down the Brighton Road. Suddenly they heard a firm voice call out, as if on the parade ground, "Soldiers!" They turned, and there was the venerable Mr. Bedford beckoning to them from his garden gate. Subsequently describing the incident to the writer and to Mr. Smithies, he said—"I shuddered at the idea of their being riddled through with bullets, and, feeling deep compassion for them, I had called out to them. They came across the road to me, and I first enquired of them, 'Are any of you fond of reading?' They replied that they were. I then invited them into my house, ascertained their names, ages, and former places of residence, and then entered into general conversation with them. I brought out some tracts, which I distributed amongst them, and then told them I should be pleased to see them again at my house. Sometime afterwards, when walking out with my nephew, I saw four soldiers looking earnestly at me. I requested him to go and stop them, and enquire if they were engaged. He did so, and they came to me, and I took them into my garden and then into the house, and had them seated in the parlour. Just at that moment my servant came up and said that a number of soldiers were at the back gate. I went to them and found that they also wanted some tracts, but I told them that just then I was engaged with some of their comrades, and invited them to come on another evening which I named. When they came we had the room filled with red-coats. We read to them, and, after giving them refreshments, and further conversing with them, we parted."

MR. BEDFORD'S INTEREST IN CONTINENTAL MATTERS.

The numerous and constant engagements of Mr. Bedford's philanthropic energies at home did not preclude him from devoting a considerable portion of time to the promotion of the cause of religion and humanity on the continent of Europe. By personal visits, by correspondence and otherwise, he maintained a lively interest in the welfare and progress of the various European nations.

His first visit to the Continent was a brief one in 1822, when, in company with two of his friends, he travelled through some parts of Holland, France, Prussia, and Germany, chiefly in the promotion of the advancement of religion amongst some small companies of serious persons.

In 1823, we find him taking a lively interest in the cause of the oppressed Greeks, who were then suffering terrible cruelties from their barbarous masters, the Turks. In the fine island of Scio, out of one hundred and ten thousand inhabitants, more than forty thousand were brutally massacred, and about fifty thousand reduced to slavery. The miseries of the unfortunate Sciote women in particular were heartrending. Mr. Bedford and an acquaintance named Eliot were so much moved by the painful narrations of these events which they received, that they diligently collected subscriptions amongst their friends, and were soon able to send off several hundred pounds towards alleviating the sufferings of these down-trodden Hellenic people.

In 1840, Mr. Bedford again travelled through parts of France, Switzerland, Germany, and Belgium. At Geneva he met with his old friend William Allen, and the two

congenial spirited men visited together the Swiss prisons and schools, and called on pious individuals with whom they became acquainted. They were particularly interested in the Basle institution for training missionaries. It was at that time under the care of an energetic and godly person, named Hoffman, who anxiously desired to imbue the forty-three young men, then in training there, with a heartfelt love of Christ and of men, and with an humble faith in the living omnipresence and power of divine grace, as the chief preparation, qualification, and support for their intended missionary careers. It was his endeavour so to train his young men that, whether acting as missionaries, as colporteurs, or as hospital assistants, they should rely as little as possible on the pecuniary support of the friends and Christian brethren whom they had left. And, for the most part, they have abundantly testified to the excellence of their Basle training by their subsequent careers as diligent and successful missionaries in various parts of the world, alike under Indian or African summers and Arctic winters.

We have heard Mr. Bedford relate of one of the young missionaries of this description, that he had gone out to some African station, where, after establishing himself satisfactorily, and finding a permanent field of Christian labour opening before him, he judged that a married life would render his usefulness and comfort the greater. But in the absence of a suitable partner at his distant and isolated location, he wrote home to the elders of his religious fraternity in Europe, and requested them to select a suitable wife for him. We believe it is a frequent practice amongst the Moravians and some kindred communities,

at least in some localities, for the elders thus to suggest and guide the matrimonial choice of their young people. In this case, after due consultation, a young lady was thus selected as being likely to prove a helpful and good wife to the African missionary. She was therefore waited upon by the elders, and her attention was called to the conclusion come to by them. The suggestion did not at first meet with her approval, and was therefore declined. And as the elders' choice is never absolutely compulsory, but merely strongly recommendatory, no effort at pressure was used, but the matter was allowed to stand over for a while. Meantime, the young lady's mind again and again recurred to the kindly but earnest counsels of the esteemed religious authorities of her confraternity, and also to the lonely condition of the distant young missionary. And the effect wrought by these considerations was, finally, that she intimated to the elders her readiness to comply with their request, notwithstanding her former refusal. The needful arrangements were made, and she proceeded to Africa, where a happy union was the result. Some years after their marriage, and during a visit to Europe, this young couple one day dined with Mr. Bedford, and at his table recounted to him with pleasure and satisfaction the details of their being thus brought happily together.

Messrs. Bedford and Allen also visited the interesting institutions under the care of Spittler and Zeller, two good men, whose lives and aims were similar to those of Hoffman of Basle. Spittler was the founder of the "Pilgrim Mission" at Chrishona; and Zeller was the principal of the Orphan School at Beugen. They were cheered by the visits of the kindred-souled English philanthropists.

Mr. Bedford now proceeded through Rhine Prussia to Bonn, Pyrmont, and Dusseldorf. At the latter place, amongst other objects which claimed his careful attention, was the large orphan establishment of Dusselthal, founded by the pious Count von der Recke. After further travels through Holland and Belgium, Mr. Bedford again returned to London.

In 1842, on the occasion of the King of Prussia's visit to England, his ambassador, the Baron de Bunsen, invited Messrs. Allen, Bedford, and Samuel Gurney, to meet that monarch. He expressed his pleasure in seeing these three gentlemen, who had exerted themselves in a very active and disinterested manner on behalf of many of his subjects, and in efforts to promote the successful operation of various beneficent institutions in his dominions. Mr. Allen, writing respecting this interview, records in his memoranda, that "the king noticed us in a very kind and affectionate manner." The venerable philosopher, Alexander von Humboldt, accompanied the king on this occasion, and Allen adds that he also "pleasantly recognized us."

In 1845, Mr. Bedford again travelled through various parts of Germany, France and Prussia, in company with his American friend, Mr. Lindley Murray Hoag. We have already mentioned several incidents which occurred during this tour. In its progress, Mr. Bedford again visited Dusselthal Abbey and its inmates.

For many years he took great interest in this remarkable philanthropic establishment, which was founded by Count von der Recke, for the care and instruction of destitute children, and for the reformation of juvenile delinquents.

During Mr. Bedford's continental tours, the progress

and operations of this institution afforded him much satisfaction. It was an establishment after his own heart; and on his return to England he constituted himself a sort of permanent voluntary agent for the collection of funds for its greater usefulness and for the diffusion of information, from time to time, respecting its condition. Considerable sums of money were thus obtained by him, during successive years, for the Abbey; and his name became widely known in connection with its objects and claims. In 1851 a disastrous fire took place, and the establishment was destroyed. Mr. Bedford again vigorously exerted himself on its behalf; and, in a few months, further liberal funds were sent, for continuing the philanthropic schemes of the good Count.

An English lady, Miss Murray, resident in the institution at Dusselthal, was a frequent correspondent of Mr. Bedford, and from an account drawn up by her we gather some particulars of the history of the establishment.

It was originally a monastery belonging to the rigid order of La Trappe, and distant two miles from Dusseldorf on the Rhine. In the year 1822 the building was purchased by Count von der Recke, who had previously established a juvenile refuge at Overdyck, in Westphalia, in order to shelter some of the numerous orphans deprived of parental care by the terrible wars of Napoleon.

After purchasing Dusselthal Abbey, both institutions were maintained in collateral operation by the Count. During the ensuing quarter of a century more than fourteen hundred poor children here found a refuge, and were taught of the love of God and of their Saviour, and trained to become useful members of the community.

In 1848 the Count, through a severe and protracted

illness, was compelled to resign the personal superintendence of the Abbey, and retire to his Silesian estate. But he still maintained a fatherly interest in the welfare of the two institutions, which were now entrusted to the management of a resident director and a committee. Like the wonderful and even gigantic establishments of George Muller at Ashley Down, Bristol, this institution was successfully maintained for more than a quarter of a century mainly by a faithful trust in God for the supply of the necessary funds, and by His putting into the hearts of charitable and good men a willingness to contribute to its support. Some portion of its income was furnished by the profits of its farm and mill, and by some printing and bookbinding labours carried on by the pupils. The usual number of children in the two establishments collectively was about two hundred. They were received as early as the age of four years, and kept till sixteen or seventeen, when situations were found for them in various branches of useful labour. They were admitted, irrespective of sect or party, and mainly on the ground of being either destitute criminals or in danger of becoming so.

At the destructive fire in 1851 much kindness was manifested by persons of various creeds and conditions in Dusseldorf. Two Roman Catholic priests and some other gentlemen brought a fire-engine and laboured for hours in putting out the flames, and in saving the furniture. Other citizens of the town brought hot coffee, cooked meat, bread and vegetables, for the young unfortunates. Happily the institution was soon re-erected, and largely through Mr Bedford's influence with his English philanthropic acquaintances.

It may be added that the Count von der Recke had, on leaving Dusselthal, erected another hospital for about one hundred children, at his new home, at Craschnitz, in Silesia. And here, as well as at Dusselthal, his plans and institutes continued to receive Mr. Bedford's warm interest and assistance.

Another continental visit was undertaken by the subject of this sketch for the purpose of accompanying his esteemed friends William and Josiah Forster, in presenting an address to several European monarchs, entreating their aid and influence towards the suppression of slavery and the slave trade.

And finally, in 1852, Mr. Bedford again undertook an arduous and somewhat extensive journey through Germany and Norway with an active and devoted missionary friend, Mr. John Yeardley. The latter was taken ill at the outset of their tour, and was laid up for two weeks at Homburg, with a painful attack of disease. After his recovery the two friends proceeded through Denmark to Norway, and landed at Christiania, where they were met by a young man named Kloster, in whom Mr. Bedford had, on various occasions, taken a warm interest, whom he had aided in procuring a good education in England, and whose interests he had repeatedly and substantially promoted. He now gladly and gratefully welcomed his venerable friend and his missionary companion to the shores of "Old Norway," and tendered his best services as their guide and interpreter. Mr. Yeardley, thus aided, held a succession of religious gatherings; and his addresses were received with much pleasure by the honest-hearted people of the land. They were also much gratified with

his companion, whose venerable appearance and loving demeanour indicated the earnest desires of his heart for the best welfare of all amongst whom his lot was cast from time to time. This journey was a specially trying one to Mr. Bedford, at his advanced age, by reason of the peculiar inconveniences of travel in that rugged and mountainous country. For, although enabled to visit Christiansand, Stavanger, Drontheim, and other places along the coast by means of steamers, which comfortably took them from town to town along the placid waters of the grandly precipitous fiords and sea gorges fringed and sheltered by innumerable islands, yet for access to the inland localities they were necessitated to have recourse either to ponies or carriages. The latter are small boat-like vehicles holding a single person, and readily upset in the uneven mountain tracks. Such an accident happened to Mr. Bedford on one occasion, and his shoulder was dislocated; but, providentially, this occurred not far distant from a town where medical aid was procurable, and the limb was promptly and skilfully reset. But for many months, and, indeed, more or less, till the end of his life, Mr. Bedford felt the effects of this accident.

At Stavanger he met with a person named Elias Eliason, of Tasted, the only survivor of several Norwegians who, in their youth, many years previously (about the year 1811), had become sailors on a Danish privateer, which soon afterwards was captured in the German Ocean by an English ship of war, and her crew were taken as prisoners to a Scotch port, where they were confined for about a year. They were then transferred to Portsmouth, and whilst there attracted the attention of a worthy man

residing at Chichester, who procured for them some religious books in the Danish language. These works were carefully read by the youths, who received some very serious impressions from their perusal. Their company was after a while again removed to Chatham, where their good conduct and religious earnestness obtained for the young Norwegians the special interest of some of Mr. Bedford's acquaintances in London, through whose efforts they were permitted to leave Chatham, and take situations in the Metropolis where they were able to earn a comfortable livelihood. One or more of the youths frequently visited Mr. Bedford at this period; and, on the occasion of the latter being in Norway in 1852, it was very pleasant to him to meet the last survivor of the little band of imprisoned youths, in whose welfare so many years previously he had taken a cordial interest.

Many of the more serious amongst the Norwegians, whom Messrs. Yeardley and Bedford visited, were so anxious to render them assistance in the prosecution of their philanthropic and religious designs, that they voluntarily and disinterestedly lent their services in rowing their visitors from fiord to fiord, and to remote and sequestered spots where, on landing, they immediately arranged planks, which they brought with them for seats, and then rapidly gathered the neighbouring inhabitants to listen to the fatherly and consoling declarations of the grace of God in his dear Son, which were the favourite topics of the two good men.

Mr. Bedford felt unable to endure the fatigues of Norwegian travel to the full extent of the route contemplated, and therefore, after accompanying Mr. Yeardley through

a portion of the country, he returned to England, leaving his friend to pursue and complete his missionary labours with the aid of his zealous interpreter, Mr. Kloster.

Although Mr. Bedford never again visited any part of the Continent, he retained a lively interest in the promotion of religion and philanthropy in the various nations of Europe. Often, on calling upon him at Croydon, the writer has found one or more of Mr. Bedford's continental acquaintances visiting their old friend, and renewing the friendships formed with him in their native lands ; and through these and other channels Mr. Bedford continued to send messages of sympathy and Christian regard to the distant brethren and friends whom he could no longer personally visit.



CHAPTER VIII.

THE CLOSE OF MR. BEDFORD'S LIFE.

DURING the last few years of Mr. Bedford's life, his friends and acquaintances clearly perceived many indications of decreasing strength. He felt more and more disinclined to leave the quietude of his residence, and gradually discontinued the short pleasure tours, which he had long been in the habit of frequently making, to the Isle of Wight, Brighton, Hastings, and Margate. Increasingly manifested symptoms of disease of the heart rendered much exercise dangerous for him, and he seldom walked further than his garden, or at the most to his usual place of worship at Croydon; but occasionally he took a quiet ride in the vicinity, as, for instance, to visit the scenes of the benevolent efforts of his neighbours, Mr. Samuel Gurney, M.P., at Carshalton, and Miss Marsh (authoress of the life of Captain Hedley Vicars) at Beckenham and Beddington. It was evident that the sun of his life was setting, peacefully and serenely, but surely descending; yet he retained his brightness of faculty, and even the remarkable and childlike freshness of his complexion almost to the last week of life.

He had for some time withdrawn himself from the more active engagements of his former life; and having in every respect "set his house in order," and committed his spirit to the everlasting care of his Saviour, he was

able to exclaim, as he frequently did during his final illness, "I have now nothing left to do but to die."

During the months of November and December, 1864, the fatal disease rapidly accomplished its remaining work. Faintness, spasms, and difficulty of breathing, necessitated confinement to his bed-chamber, and indicated the near approach of the end. But even in this enfeebled condition Mr. Bedford retained his disposition for beneficent usefulness; and on one occasion roused himself with much difficulty to discharge some duties as an executor, which he knew would afford deep gratification to many parties concerned; and, during the subsequent night he often spoke of the pleasure which the next day's post would bring to those interested in the arrangements made.

Notwithstanding the prostration of his strength towards the close, he continued cheerful and very patient, and was often engaged in prayer, either vocal or in silence. His utterances were brief and reverential, such as, "Oh, Lord! blot out my transgressions, and pardon mine iniquities, for Jesus Christ's sake;" and "Thou hast given me the shield of Thy salvation, and Thy right hand hath holden me."

He derived much consolation from having portions of Holy Scripture read to him, and expressed particular comfort after again hearing the Twenty-third Psalm. And more than once he exclaimed, "I know in whom I have believed; and I trust that through His great mercy, and not for works of righteousness that I have done, an entrance will be granted me into the courts above."

And, doubtless, he blessedly experienced the full reali-

zation of his anticipations when, at length, the final summons came, and gently and almost imperceptibly, as in tranquil slumber, the immortal spirit passed away from the restraints of earthly feebleness into the heavenly kingdom of our risen and glorified Redeemer, who is the ever-living King and Father of His people, here and hereafter.

Thus, at the ripe age of eighty-four, loving all and deeply beloved in return, lived and died good Peter Bedford;—truly one of “the excellent of the earth.”

Throughout his closing days and the period of his final illness, he was surrounded by loving and assiduous friends, who sought in every way to soothe and comfort him. Both literally and spiritually did he experience the fulfilment of the Divine promise to those who, by compassion and philanthropy, perform the highest duties of religion:—“Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. The Lord will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: Thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness.”—Psalm xli. 1–3.

And, doubtless, at the glorious resurrection morning he will abundantly realize Christ's sure and certain declaration,—“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy;” and enter, in endless beatitude, on the celestial privileges to be accorded to those whose beneficent lives shall then receive the Redeemer's crowning sanction of—“Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto Me.”—Matthew xxv. 40.

Mr. Bedford's remains were interred at Croydon, in the presence of a large assembly of those who had known and

loved him. Many had come from a distance to pay the last mark of respect to their venerable friend ; and amongst those gathered round his grave were members of the various religious denominations, all uniting in heartfelt respect to the memory of one whose life was a homage to the supreme principle of the religion of them all :—*love to God and to man.*

Good as he was, we can by no means say that we shall never look upon his like again, or that he has not left his equal behind him. For we have abundant reason to know that more than a few of similar lives and dispositions still live amongst us, and in the varied departments of the Christian World. The good mould in which his character was cast is not broken, and never will be whilst the same great Giver of every good and perfect gift continues to rule and bless His heritage. But there is no superabundance of such ; and we may well pray for the further increase of men so warm-hearted, so active for good, and withal so genial and so girt about with social and spiritual sunshine.

“ Not upon thee or thine, the solemn Angel
Hath evil wrought.
Thy funeral anthem is a *glad evangel* ;
The good die not.”

“ Soldier of Christ, well done !
Praise be thy new employ ;
And, while eternal ages run,
Rest in thy Saviour's joy.”

MALTA
UNDER THE PHOENICIANS, KNIGHTS, AND
ENGLISH.

By **WILLIAM TALLACK.**

Includes Descriptions (with Illustrations) of the Phœnician and other Antiquities of Malta (from personal observations), also of the History of the Island, its Geology, Ichthyology, Ornithology, and Conchology, its Social and Religious Condition, and its connection with the Apostle Paul.

Price 7s. 6d.

LONDON : A. W. BENNETT, 5, Bishopsgate Without.

FRIENDLY SKETCHES IN AMERICA.

By **WILLIAM TALLACK.**

Sketches and Observations (during a four months' tour in America in 1860), chiefly relative to the Social Aspects and the Educational and other Institutions of the Society of Friends in America.

Price 2s. 6d.

LONDON : A. W. BENNETT, 5, Bishopsgate Without.

17

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION, 1862.
Award.—S. W. PARTRIDGE, Class XXVIII., Section C., Honourable Mention for Illustrated Books.

ILLUSTRATED BOOKS

SUITABLE FOR

Presents and Distribution.



LONDON:

S. W. PARTRIDGE, 9, Paternoster Row.

Full-paged Pictures, by JOHN GILBERT, R. BARNES, L. HUARD, and others.

BRITISH WORKMAN.

The Yearly Part for 1866, with cover printed in *Colours*, price 1s. 6d. Parlour Edition, cloth, gilt edges, 2s. 6d. All the Yearly Parts are always kept on sale. Published in Monthly Numbers, price One Penny.

The Complete Edition for the first Ten Years, bound in One volume, cloth, plain, 15s.; cloth, gilt edges, 17s. 6d. 1845-59, cloth, plain, 9s.; gilt edges, 10s. 6d. 1860-64, cloth, plain, 9s.; gilt edges, 10s. 6d.

Full-paged Pictures, by HARRISON WEIR, W. HUNT, and others.

CHILDREN'S FRIEND.

The Yearly Vol. for 1866, with cover printed in *Colours*, 1s. 6d.; cloth, plain, 2s.; cloth, gilt edges, 2s. 6d. Published in Monthly Numbers, price One Penny.

The previous volumes—1861 to 1865—are always kept on sale, in three sorts of binding, as above.

The Years 1861-66, bound in Two handsome volumes. Cloth, 5s.; cloth, gilt edges, 6s. each.

Full-paged Pictures, by R. BARNES, HARRISON WEIR, H. ANELAY, and others.

BAND OF HOPE REVIEW.

The Yearly Part for 1866, with cover printed in *Colours*, price 1s. Parlour Edition, cloth, gilt edges, 2s. Published in Monthly Numbers, price One Half-penny.

The First Series may be had, neatly bound in One volume, cloth, plain, 10s.; cloth, gilt edges, 12s. The Second Series (1861 to 1865), bound in One volume, cloth, plain, 5s., cloth, gilt edges, 6s.

All the Yearly Parts from the commencement are always kept on sale.

Full-paged Pictures by H. ANELAY, R. BARNES, and others.

THE INFANT'S MAGAZINE.

By the Editors of "The Children's Friend." The Yearly Volume for 1866, with cover printed in *Colours*, 1s. 6d.; cloth, plain, 2s.; cloth, gilt edges, 2s. 6d. Published Monthly, price One Penny.

London: W. PARTRIDGE, 9, Paternoster Row.

Illustrated after designs by Harrison Weir and others.

ANIMAL SAGACITY.

A selection of remarkable Incidents illustrative of the Sagacity of Animals. In prose and verse. Edited by Mrs. S. C. HALL. Cloth, 5s., cloth, gilt edges, 7s. 6d.

CONTENTS.

The Three Bears; Miss Bruin.—“Charlie,” the White Sergeant.—Tommy’s Clever Trick.—The Lion, the King of the Forest; Danco.—Gipsy and the Chickens.—The Elephant and Cobblers.—Old Zeb.—The Chaffinches and the Nest.—The Whip of Straw.—Faithful Chum.—Affection of Sheep.—Sagacity of Cats.—Rover’s One Fault.—Sagacity of the Rat.—Robin Redbreast.—The Dog and the Nightingale.—Dogs Preserving Property and Life.—Our Noble “Friend.”—The Docility and Affection of the Horse.—Fidelity of the Dog.—“Lab” and the Canary.—Dandie; or, the Dog that could reason.—The Cat and the Blackbird.—A Dog that was kind to his fellow.—Dogs Saving Life.—Meggy’s Grave, &c.

NEW WORK BY DR. NEWTON.

THE GREAT PILOT AND HIS LESSONS.

By the Rev. RICHARD NEWTON, D.D., author of “The Giants,” &c.

CONTENTS.

Mary’s Choice; or, The Good Portion.—Doing for Jesus.—The Best Ornament.—The Prince of Peace.—The Best Friend.—The Secret of Safety.—The Best Name.—A Tree of Life.—A Heavenly Home.

With many Engravings. Cloth, 1s. 6d.

London: S. W. PARTRIDGE, 9, Paternoster Row.

OUR
DUMB COMPANIONS;
Or, Conversations about
DOGS, HORSES, DONKEYS, AND CATS.

By THOMAS JACKSON, M.A.

With Seventy-five Engravings. Cloth, 5s., cloth extra, 7s. 6d.

[*Third Edition.*]

OUR
CHILDREN'S PETS;
In Prose and Verse. By JOSEPHINE. With Seventy Engravings. Cloth, 5s.
cloth extra, 7s. 6d.

[*Second Edition*]

SHORT STEPS FOR LITTLE
FEET.

By the Author of "The Children's Party," With Ten Engravings. Cover
printed in Colours, 1s.

[*"Children's Friend" Series.*]

London: S. W. PARTRIDGE, 9, Paternoster Row.

A GOLDEN YEAR; and its Lessons of Labour.
By the Author of "Marian Falconer." With SIX Engravings. Cloth,
2s. 6d. [Second Edition.]

SPARKS FROM THE ANVIL. By ELIHU
BURRITT. With many Engravings. Revised by the Author. With a new
Preface. Cloth, 1s. 6d. [New Edition.]

A KISS FOR A BLOW; or a Collection of Stories
for Children. By H. C. WRIGHT. With EIGHT Illustrations by H.
Anelay, Esq. Cloth, 1s. 6d. [New Edition.]

THE STORY OF LITTLE ALFRED. By D. J. E.,
Author of "Story of the Lost London." With many Engravings. Cloth, 1s.
[Second Edition.]

JOHN HEPPELL; "or, Just One Glass." With
EIGHT Engravings. Cloth, 1s.

THE CLIFF HUT; or, the Perils of a Fisherman's
Family. By Miss BAKEWELL, Author of "Hannah Twist." With many
Illustrations. Cloth, 1s.

THE VOICE OF CHILDHOOD; or, the influence
and the poetry, the wrongs and the wants of our Little Ones. By JOHN DE
FRAINE. With EIGHT Engravings. Cloth, 6d. [Second Edition.]

HOW PAUL'S PENNY BECAME A POUND.
By the Author of "Dick and his Donkey." With TWELVE Engravings.
Cover printed in *colours*, 1s. ["Children's Friend" Series.]

HOW PETER'S POUND BECAME A PENNY.
By the Author of "Dick and his Donkey." With TWELVE Engravings.
Cover printed in *colours*, 1s. ["Children's Friend" Series.]

London: S. W. PARTRIDGE, 9, Paternoster Row.

ILLUSTRATED PENNY READINGS.

- | | | |
|----|---|-----|
| 1 | WHO'S YOUR FRIEND? By JOHN E. GRAY. | 1d. |
| 2 | AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A REFORMED THIEF. | 1d. |
| 3 | WHAT HAPPENED TO JOE BARKER. By T. S. ARTHUR. | 1d. |
| 4 | THE LOSINGS' BANK. A PLEDGE FOR A PLEDGE. | 1d. |
| 5 | THE PLANK WIEL BEAR. A Ballad. By Rev. C. OVERTON. | 1d. |
| 6 | TAKE CARE OF YOUR "TIS BUTS." By J. W. KIRTON. | 1d. |
| 7 | THE MARKET PINT. By JOHN E. GRAY. | 1d. |
| 8 | THE SHABBY SURTOUT. By R. HUIE, M.D. | 1d. |
| 9 | THE WONDER-WORKING BEDSTEAD. By J. W. KIRTON. | 1d. |
| 10 | MY ACCOUNT WITH HER MAJESTY. By A. HALLIDAY. | 1d. |
| 11 | THE WOUNDED STAG. By Rev. CHARLES OVERTON. | 1d. |
| 12 | THE TEMPERANCE LIFE-BOAT CREW. By J. W. KIRTON. | 1d. |
| 13 | POLLY PRATT'S SECRET FOR MAKING £5 NOTES. | 1d. |
| 14 | THE LIFE BELT. By an OLD SAILOR. | 1d. |
| 15 | CRIPPLED JENNY; OR, THE VOICES OF FLOWERS. | 1d. |
| 16 | THE DOINGS OF DRINK. By the Rev. S. J. STONE, B.A. (Windsor). | 1d. |
| 17 | HOW SAM ADAMS' PIPE BECAME A PIG. By J. W. KIRTON. | 1d. |
| 18 | THE SUNDAY EXCURSION TRAIN. By Rev. Dr. LEASK. | 1d. |
| 19 | THE FIRST AND LAST LITTLE TIFF. | 1d. |
| 20 | FRANK'S SUNDAY COAT. By Mrs. C. L. BALFOUR. | 1d. |
| 21 | THE KING'S MESSENGER. | 1d. |
| 22 | PARLEY THE PORTER. By Mrs. HANNAH MORE. | 1d. |

Nos. 1 to 12, done up in cloth, 1/6; paper boards, 1/; packets, 1/.

"British Workman" Placards.

One Penny; Coloured, Threepence.

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | JOHN ROSE AND HIS LITTLE FREEHOLD. L. HUARD. |
| 2 | THE ELOQUENCE OF GRIEF. L. HUARD. |
| 3 | THE WHEAT AND THE CHAFF. H. ANELAY. |
| 4 | STRIKE AT THE ROOT. L. HUARD. |
| 5 | "DIP YOUR ROLL IN YOUR OWN POT." H. ANELAY. |
| 6 | RENT FREE. H. ANELAY. |
| 7 | THE SECRET OF ENGLAND'S GREATNESS. H. ANELAY. |
| 8 | JACK AND HIS HARD LUMP. H. ANELAY. |
| 9 | THE DOOR IN THE HEART. H. ANELAY. |
| 10 | THE LOAF LECTURE. GEORGE CRUIKSHANK. |
| 11 | HOME IN SHADOW. GEORGE CRUIKSHANK. |
| 12 | A THING THAT DRINKS AND SMOKES. GEORGE CRUIKSHANK. |
| 13 | THE TWO PLEDGES. L. HUARD. |
| 14 | KINDNESS TO ANIMALS. Sir E. LANDSEER. |

Nos. 1 to 12, done up in packet, One Shilling.

. If an order be sent with fourteen stamps, the complete set will be forwarded post free.

London: S. W. PARTRIDGE, 9, Paternoster Row.

RONALD'S REASON; or, the Little

Cripple. A Book for Boys. By Mrs. S. C. HALL. With TEN Engravings, 1s. One of "*The Children's Friend*" Series.

SYBIL & HER LIVE SNOWBALL.

By the Author of "Dick and his Donkey." A Book for Girls. With TWELVE Engravings, 1s. One of "*The Children's Friend*" Series.

TALK WITH THE LITTLE ONES.

A Book for Boys and Girls. By the Author of "Rhymes Worth Remembering." With THIRTY Engravings, 1s. One of "*The Children's Friend*" Series.

ROGER MILLER; or, Heroism in Humble

Life. By the Rev. GEO. ORME. With an Engraving, cloth, 1s. 6d.

[*New Edition.*]

PETER BEDFORD, the Spitalfields Philan-

thropist. By WILLIAM TALLACK. With Portrait, cloth, 2s. 6d.

ILLUSTRATED PENNY READINGS:

being Twelve separate Readings by various Authors. Bound in cloth, 1s. 6d.; in packets or paper covers, 1s. each.

THE FOUR PILLARS OF TEMPER-

ANCE. By J. W. KIRTON, Author of "*Buy your own Cherries.*" With an Engraving, cloth, 1s. 6d. Paper cover, 1s.

THE BREWER'S FAMILY; or, Experi-

ences of Charles Crawford. By Mrs. ELLIS. With EIGHT Engravings, cloth, 2s. 6d.

MARIE & THE SEVEN CHILDREN.

A Tale for Elder Girls. By Mrs. GELDART. With TEN Engravings, cloth, 1s.

London: S. W. PARTRIDGE, 9, Paternoster Row.

Story of Two Apprentices :

The Dishonest and The Successful. By the Rev. J. T. BARR. With FOUR Engravings, 6d.

"The 'Two Apprentices' should be put into every boy's hands; they will be sure to read it, and cannot fail of learning some valuable lessons from its pages. It is more natural and true than Hogarth's Two Apprentices."—*Wesleyan Times*. [Tenth Thousand.]

Hannah Twift :

A Story about Temper. By Miss BAKEWELL. With Two Engravings, 6d.

"Hannah Twift is a young servant girl unfortunately possessing a bad temper, which gets her into all kinds of difficulties, even from childhood; and ultimately is the secondary cause of her being apprehended on the charge of murdering the aunt of her mistress, for which she is tried and found guilty, and sentenced to die."—*Art Journal*.

Philip Markham's Two Lessons.

By Author of "Dick and his Donkey." With FOUR Engravings, 6d.

"Philip Markham is the title of an interesting story of one who was wilful and proud. Like Solomon's 'foolish son,' he was more than once a 'heaviness to his mother.' But he learnt obedience through suffering. His two lessons were dearly bought, but in the end worth more than they cost."—*Glasgow Christian News*.

Scrub ;

Or, the Workhouse Boy's First Start in Life. By Mrs. BALFOUR. With SEVEN Engravings, 6d.

This interesting narrative of a poor London Workhouse boy, illustrates in a most striking manner the value of "right principles," especially of honesty, truthfulness, and sobriety. It is a suitable present for apprentices, and the senior scholars in Sunday Schools.

[Twentieth Thousand.]

The Rod, and its Uses ;

Or, Thomas Dodd and Bill Collins. By Author of "My Flowers." With FIVE Engravings, 6d.

CONTENTS:—A Sketch of Dodd's Family Management and its Consequences—A Clergyman's Difficulties—Dodd feels his own Faultiness, and suffers for it—First Misfortune—First Comfort and Second Trouble—A Stubborn Son refuses Good Advice—Collins's Cottage : a Peep into its Politics—The Secret of Collins's Happiness—The Hounds and the Whipper-in—Sorrow upon Sorrow—Effects of Strong Drink—Friends indeed—Comfort and Encouragement—Darkness and Day-dawn.

London : S. W. PARTRIDGE, 9, Paternoster Row.

THE DAIRYMAN'S DAUGHTER: an

Authentic Narrative. By the Rev. LEGH RICHMOND, M.A. With TWENTY Engravings, cloth, 1s. 6d.; gilt, 2s. 6d.

COME HOME, MOTHER! A Story for

Mothers. By NELSIE BROOK. With TEN Engravings, cloth, 1s.

MAUDE'S VISIT TO SANDY BEACH.

A Book for Girls. By the Author of "Crosses of Childhood." With FOUR Engravings, cloth, 1s.

PROCRASTINATING MARY. A Story

for Young Girls. By the Author of "Crosses of Childhood." With TWO Engravings, 6d.

ROSA; or, The Two Castles. By Miss

BRADBURN. A Tale for Girls. With EIGHT Engravings, cloth, 1s.
[New Edition.]

PASSAGES IN THE HISTORY OF A

SHILLING. By Mrs. C. L. BALFOUR. With FIVE Engravings, cloth, 1s.
[New Edition.]

OUR DUMB COMPANIONS; or, Stories

about Dogs, Horses, Cats, and Donkeys. By Rev. T. JACKSON, M.A. With SEVENTY-FIVE Engravings, cloth, 5s.; gilt, 7s. 6d. [Eighth Thousand.]

THE LITTLE WOODMAN & HIS

DOG CÆSAR. By Mrs. SHERWOOD. Parlour Issue on toned paper, cloth, 1s. 6d.; gilt, 2s. 6d.
[New Edition.]

WASTE NOT, WANT NOT. A Book

for Servants. By Mrs. SHERWOOD. Printed on toned paper, cloth, 1s. 6d.; gilt, 2s. 6d.
[New Edition.]

London: S. W. PARTRIDGE, 9, Paternoster Row.

THE MOTHER'S PICTURE ALPHABET.

Printed on Toned Paper. With TWENTY-SIX Engravings, boards, 5s.; cloth, red edges, 7s. 6d.; gilt edges, 10s. 6d. [*Seventh Thousand.*]

A MOTHER'S LESSONS ON THE

LORD'S PRAYER. By Mrs. BALFOUR. With EIGHT Engravings, illustrated cover, 2s. 6d.; cloth, 3s. 6d.; cloth extra, 5s.

A MOTHER'S STORIES FOR HER

CHILDREN. By Mrs. CARUS WILSON. With FOUR Engravings, cloth, 1s. [*New Edition.*]

A MOTHER'S LESSONS ON KIND-

NESS TO ANIMALS. With FORTY-THREE Engravings, 2 vols., cloth, 1s. each.

THE GOVERNESS; or, the Missing Pencil-

Case. By the Rev. J. T. BARR. With TWELVE Engravings, cloth, 1s. [*Fifteenth Thousand.*]

RACHEL; or, Little Faults. By Charlotte

ELIZABETH. With SEVEN Engravings, cloth, 1s. [*Ninth Thousand.*]

THE GIANTS; and How to Fight Them.

By Dr. NEWTON. With EIGHT Engravings, cloth, 1s. [*Ninth Thousand.*]

THE PRINCE CONSORT: His Life and

Character. By the Rev. J. H. WILSON. With SIX Engravings, cloth, 1s. [*Twenty-first Thousand.*]

COUSIN BESSIE: a Story of Youthful

Earnestness. By Mrs. BALFOUR. With EIGHT Engravings, cloth, 1s. [*Tenth Thousand.*]

London: S. W. PARTRIDGE, 9, Paternoster Row.

THREE OPPORTUNITIES; or, the Story
of Henry Forrester. With EIGHT Engravings, cloth, 2s. 6d.

CROSSES OF CHILDHOOD; or, Little
Alice and Her Friends. By MRS. WALLER. With FIVE Engravings, cloth, 1s.

THE CHILDREN'S PARTY; or, a Day
at Upland. Being Stories in Prose and Verse. By COUSIN HELEN. With SIX Engravings, cloth, 1s.

SONGS AND HYMNS FOR THE
LITTLE ONES. Compiled by UNCLE JOHN. With ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY Engravings, cloth, 5s.; coloured plates and gilt edges, 7s. 6d.

MORNING DEW-DROPS; or, the Ju-
venile Abstainer. By MRS. C. L. BALFOUR. With SIXTEEN Engravings, cloth, 3s. 6d.; gilt, 4s. 6d. [Fifth Edition.]

TOIL AND TRUST; or, Life-Story of
Patty, the Workhouse Girl. By MRS. BALFOUR. With FOUR Engravings, cloth, 1s. [Twelfth Thousand.]

FAMILY WALKING-STICKS; or, Prose
Portraits of my Relations. By GEORGE MOGRIDGE (Old Humphrey), with a Preface by his Widow. With EIGHT Engravings, cloth, 1s. 6d.

THE SICK ROOM AND ITS SECRET.
By MRS. THOMAS GELDART. With TWENTY-TWO Engravings, cloth, 1s.

TOM BURTON: a Tale of the Workshop.
By the Author of "The Working Man's Way in the World." With SIX Engravings, cloth, 1s. [Tenth Thousand.]

London: S. W. PARTRIDGE, 9, Paternoster Row.

Nettie Leigh's Birthday.

By A. E. R. With FIVE Engravings, 6d.

CONTENTS:—The Pine-cone Basket and the Sunbeams—The Drive to the Wood—The Ruins—Muff and the Hedgehog—The Owl in the Tower—The Lame Girl and the Cottage—A Disaster—The Coronation—Good Resolutions—Nettie and Minnie going Home—"Good Night, and Pleasant Dreams."

Joseph Selden, the Cripple ;

Or, an Angel in our Home. By the Author of "The Dalrymples." With FIVE Engravings, 6d.

CONTENTS:—A Peep into John Selden's Home—Joey the Cripple—His Patience and Endurance—A Comfort to his Mother—Timely Aid—Bitter Reflections—John Selden in search of Employment—Settles at the Isle of Wight—Joey a Cripple for Life—Is carried to the Beach—A Lady Visitor—Promise of a Bible—Bookmarkers—The Happy Transformation—Joey does what he can for Missions—Is made a Blessing—He Sickness and Dies.

Friends of the Friendless ;

Or, a Few Chapters from Prison Life. By Mrs. BALFOUR. With NINE Engravings, 6d.

"Short sketches of philanthropists, chiefly in humble life, well adapted to incite the possessors of a single talent to turn it to good account, by showing what the *poor have been able to do for the poor*."—*Englishwoman's Journal*.

Pity the Little Ones!

Or, Little Ellen the Gleaner. By the Author of "Haunted House." With Two Engravings, 6d.

"We should think it would be almost impossible for any one to read this graphic sketch of the drunkard's home and child, without being moved with pity and sympathy for the little ones. We would earnestly recommend parents and Sabbath-school teachers to purchase and carefully read this interesting narrative."—*Maidstone Temperance Visitor*.

How Sam Adams' Pipe became a Pig.

By J. W. KIRTON, Author of "Buy your own Cherries." With FIVE Engravings by Cruikshank.

CONTENTS:—How Sam loved his Pipe, and how he went to see the Wild Beasts—How Mr. Wombwell objected to Smoking, because it taught the Monkeys Bad Habits—Sam burns his Idol, and his Clothes from off his Back—Dr. Prout's opinion of the Weed—Little Pigs with Straws in their mouths—Charley puts a very awkward question—Sam becomes thoughtful, especially when his wife calls him a "Walking Chimey-pot"—Self-conquest and Victory.

London : S. W. PARTRIDGE, 9, Paternoster Row.

BIBLE PRINTS: a Series of Twenty-four

beautifully Tinted Engravings, illustrative of the Old and New Testaments. By Professor SCHNORR. With Explanatory Letterpress by the Rev. JOHN ROSE, B.D., and the Rev. J. W. BURGON, M.A. With TWENTY-FOUR Engravings, paper covers, 4s.

A VOICE FROM THE VINTAGE; or,

the Force of Example. By Mrs. ELLIS. Crown 8vo., cloth, 1s.

[Fourth Edition.]

TRUTH FRAE' MANG THE HEATHER;

or, Is the Bible True? By a WORKING MAN. With SIX Engravings, cloth, 1s.

[Fourth Thousand.]

HAVE WE ANY WORD OF GOD?

The Question of the Day. By the Author of "Is the Bible True?" With SEVEN Engravings, cloth, 1s.

THE TWO CHRISTMAS DAYS. THE

CHRISTMAS BOX. By Mrs. BALFOUR. With FIVE Engravings, cloth, 1s.

THE CHRISTIAN MONITOR; or, Selec-

tions from Pious Authors. With Fifty Engravings, cloth, 2s. 6d.; cloth, gilt edges, 3s. 6d.

ILLUSTRATED HANDBILLS, for

General Distribution. With EIGHTY-THREE Engravings, 8vo., cloth, and in packets, 1s. each. Each Handbill may also be had separate, in SIXPENNY Packets, afforted or otherwise.

TRACTS FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF

INTEMPERANCE. In afforted packets. Many Engravings, 1s.

London: S. W. PARTRIDGE, 9, Paternoster Row.

THREEPENNY ILLUSTRATED BOOKS.

INCIDENTS IN THE LIFE OF A NATIVE OF BIRMINGHAM; or, the Cottage of Content. Sixth Thousand.	3d.	THE WANDERERS RECLAIMED; or, Truth Stronger than Fiction. Fifth Thousand.	3d.
A MESSAGE FROM WHITECHAPEL; or, Scenes in a London Hospital. By Augusta Johnstone. Third Thousand.	3d.	SEED-TIME AND HARVEST; or, the Sailor-Boy's Return.	7d.
YOUNG SUSAN'S FIRST PLACE; or, a Young Servant's Difficulties.	3d.	AN ADDRESS TO YOUNG SERVANTS, especially to those just entering Service. Third Thousand.	3d.
UNCLE DAVID'S VISIT TO A NEW-MARRIED WIFE, and the Good Counsels he gave her. Third Thousand.	3d.	WHAT SMALL HANDS MAY DO; or, Filial Affection. New Edition.	3d.
UNCLE DAVID'S ADVICE TO YOUNG MEN AND YOUNG WOMEN ON MARRIAGE. Third Thousand.	3d.	FRANK'S SUNDAY COAT; or, the Sabbath kept Holy.	3d.
ANNIE BAKER; or, the Little Pilgrim. By Miss M. Murchison. Fifth Thousand.	3d.	JOHN JARVIS, the Reformed Hatter. Secret. By Mrs. Balfour.	3d.
CHARLEY'S DISAPPOINTMENT; or Making the Best of it. By Mrs. Carey Brock. New Edition.	3d.	THE CABMAN'S HOLIDAY. A Tale. By Miss Sinclair.	3d.
MORE WAYS THAN ONE; or, the Little Missionary. By Mrs. Carey Brock. New Edition.	3d.	HINTS FOR SMOKERS; on the Use and Abuse of Tobacco.	3d.
		THE STRIKE. A Little Comedy. "Live and let Live."	3d.
		ROSA MAY'S CHRISTMAS DREAM, and What came of it. By Nellie Brook.	3d.

TWOPENNY ILLUSTRATED TRACTS.

WILLIAM AND MARY; or, the Fatal Blow. By Mrs. Ellis.	2d.	OLD OSCAR, THE FAITHFUL DOG. By H. G. Reid, Esq.	2d.
HISTORY AND MYSTERY OF A GLASS OF ALE. By the Author of "Buy your own Cherries."	2d.		

PENNY ILLUSTRATED TRACTS.

CONSTANCE E. KENT; or, Sin a Sure Detective.	1d.	AUNT MARY'S PRESERVING KETTLE. By T. S. Arthur.	1d.
HOW TO GROW A PLANT, and Win a Prize.	1d.	SLAVERY IN ENGLAND. A Vision of the Night.	1d.
TOTAL ABSTINENCE FROM ALCOHOLIC or INTOXICATING DRINK, Safe, Legitimate, and Expedient.	1d.	A LITTLE VOICE. A Sudden Snare. By Mrs. Balfour.	1d.
HOPE FOR NUMBER TWO, HELP FROM NUMBER ONE.	1d.	LOW WAGES; or, Thrift and Good Management.	1d.
THE ORPHAN BOY; or, How Little John was Reclaimed.	1d.	WHAT ARE BANDS OF HOPE, AND HOW TO FORM THEM.	1d.
SUNDAY ON "THE LINE;" or, Plain Facts for Working Men.	1d.	IS HALF BETTER THAN THE WHOLE? A Conversation about Sunday Trading.	1d.
PROVIDENCE ROW; or, the Successful Collier. By the Rev. T. H. Walker.	1d.	LIVE AND LET LIVE: a Plea for Publicans and Servants. 8 pp. 2/6 per hundred.	
THE CAROL SINGERS; or, Giving better than Receiving.	1d.		

London: S. W. PARTRIDGE, 9, Paternoster Row.

[25,000-11-66.]

This book should be returned to
the Library on or before the last date
stamped below.

A fine of five cents a day is incurred
by retaining it beyond the specified
time.

Please return promptly.

**HARVARD COLLEGE
LIBRARY**



**THE GIFT OF
FRIENDS' LIBRARY
PHILADELPHIA**

C 8341.988.5

Peter Bedford, the Spitalfields phi

Widener Library

001660188



3 2044 081 817 652